



THE LIBRARY
OF
THE UNIVERSITY
OF CALIFORNIA
LOS ANGELES

41

1/1

ANNALS
OF
ABERDEEN,

FROM THE
REIGN OF KING WILLIAM THE LION,

TO THE END OF THE YEAR 1818;

WITH AN ACCOUNT OF THE
CITY, CATHEDRAL, AND UNIVERSITY
OF
OLD ABERDEEN.

VOL. I.



BY WILLIAM KENNEDY ESQ* ADVOCATE,
ABERDEEN.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR A. BROWN AND CO. ABERDEEN;
W^o BLACKWOOD, EDINBURGH; AND LONGMAN, HURST, REES, ORME, AND BROWN, LONDON.

1818. ✓

* DA
890
A2K38
v.1

TO THE
CITIZENS OF ABERDEEN,
THE FOLLOWING WORK
IS HUMBL Y INSCRIBED,
BY
THEIR MOST OBEDIENT SERVANT
AND FELLOW CITIZEN,
THE AUTHOR.

“ NESCIO QUA NATALE SOLUM DULCEDINE CUNCTOS
“ DUCIT.”

OVID.

P R E F A C E.

IT is, perhaps, of little importance to the public to know the motives by which I have been induced to publish the ANNALS of NEW and OLD ABERDEEN. To this step I have not been led either by the solicitations of numerous friends---by the expectation of emolument---or by the vain hope of acquiring literary fame. Of great intimacy with literary or scientific men I am not entitled to boast ;---of the profits of authorship I am altogether independent ;---and if vanity could prompt me to imagine that I possess any claim to genius or learning, I am well aware that a work of this nature is not the field in which either of these could be displayed to advantage. It is the mere offspring of dry, patient, and laborious research. If, therefore, a candid and indulgent public shall consider it as possessing any merit---that merit must consist entirely in the strength of the evidence by which facts are supported---in the accuracy with which these are detailed---and in the perspicuity of the narrative, and of the general arrangement. Though, for the attainment of these ends, I can honestly affirm that I have exerted my utmost abilities, I have not the presumption to think that a reader of discernment may not discover in my work many defects which have escaped my own observation. If mistakes, errors, omissions, or redundancies, of any kind, shall be brought to view, I hope I shall not be excluded from common indulgence.

Conscious that I possess no claim to bright or eminent talents for composition, whatever I might have written for my own amusement, I should not have obtruded upon the public the fruits of my labour

if I had considered them as unworthy of their attention. The avidity with which the Statistical Histories of many counties, towns, corporations, and public institutions, in the united kingdom, have been lately received by the British public, affords convincing evidence that the present age is well qualified to appreciate the importance of local narrative. Such narratives are evidently calculated to gratify the laudable curiosity of the Antiquary, and to furnish materials for the general Historian. They enable the latter to mark, with greater precision than he could otherwise do, the manners and customs of different ages; the peculiar effects of civil, religious, and municipal institutions, upon the characters, the opulence, and happiness of the people; to trace their influence in retarding or promoting the spirit of liberty and independence, the progress of the liberal arts, and the general diffusion of knowledge. Without the light derived from such sources, it is not easy to conceive how he could refer the various changes and events which he records, to their true causes, or exhibit them in their proper colours, and in their just combinations. If erroneous or defective in these respects, history might serve to mislead rather than to guide the statesman, who, conceiving human nature to be the same in all ages, would regulate his political measures, not by abstract and visionary theory, but by the actual experience of former times.

Among merely local narratives, none can be of more importance in this country than those which describe the various institutions which have existed in our royal boroughs, the changes which have occurred in them, the prosperous or adverse events that have befallen them, and the effects of their influence in the state. Those boroughs may justly be viewed as forming an integral part of the British constitution, and as possessing considerable power in the administration of national affairs. As incorporated bodies in general, they derive their origin from the bounty of the sovereigns, who, impelled by gra-

titute for some signal service, or actuated by political motives, first bestowed upon them their respective constitutions; and afterwards confirmed, and, in many instances, extended their ancient rights and privileges. Depending entirely upon the will of the monarch for the security of the powers which they had thus acquired, and for a voice, by their representatives, in the general councils of the nation, they *steadily supported, in their turn*, the royal prerogative. Thus, in the more rude and barbarous ages, they became, in the hands of the crown, an useful and powerful counterpoise to the bold and ambitious usurpations of the restless Nobles and great Barons of the kingdom. Nor does their political importance in the earliest periods of their history arise only from their influence in enabling the sovereign to preserve the internal peace of the country and the steady operation of the law, by checking the insolence of a turbulent aristocracy. It was to them that manufactures and commerce owed their origin and their increase;---in them that literature, and the arts and sciences, were first cultivated and cherished;---and from them that the spirit of freedom, the blessings of order, civilization, and opulence, were gradually diffused among a servile, ignorant, and unruly people. By the accession of the Scottish kings to the throne of England, the regal power at last acquired that predominance in the state which enabled it effectually to overawe and controul the haughty chieftains of the land, even though it had been deprived of the aid of the royal boroughs. Still, however, their rights and privileges depended chiefly upon the pleasure of the sovereign, and, of course, their influence was still in no small degree subservient to his prerogative.

By the union of the two kingdoms, in the year 1707, the sets or constitutions of the boroughs, and all the royal grants in their favour, were ratified, and declared inviolable, unless by legal forfeiture. This measure, whilst it served at once to diminish their dependence on the crown, and to engraft them more securely than ever into the

state, as a distinct branch of the British constitution, gave a new direction to their political influence, and adapted it to the great changes which, with the progress of civilization, were gradually taking place in the circumstances of the nation. The agricultural interest still retains its proportional influence in the legislative body; but it is by the burgesses only that the manufacturing and commercial branches of the community, the great sources of the influx of wealth into the kingdom, and consequently of its grandeur and power, are properly represented in our imperial senate. While manufactures, navigation, and trade continue to flourish---and while they contribute by far the greatest share of the public revenue, the importance of these boroughs must be felt: their influence, with every wise administration, must be considerable; and they must command from government that protection and encouragement which are indispensable to their prosperity.

If such be the importance of royal boroughs, surely the History of ABERDEEN, which, in population, rank, and opulence, is the third in the ancient kingdom of Scotland, cannot fail, if well authenticated and distinctly stated, to attract its due share of the public attention.

The task, however, of compiling a history of this borough, I should most willingly have left to any man of better abilities than mine, if peculiar circumstances had not occurred which incidentally brought under my view many facts of essential importance in that history---facts which none ever had an equal opportunity of investigating, and to the labour of investigating which, few, I believe, would be disposed to submit.

About six years ago, I was employed, by the town council of Aberdeen, at the recommendation of their present clerk, to compile an alphabetical index of the very voluminous records of the borough,

which, by permission of the late town clerk, I had, many years before, cursorily perused at a leisure hour. That work, which compelled me to read by far the greater part of these records, I completed in the spring of the year 1815. While the details scattered through these registers were yet fresh in my memory, I formed the resolution of commencing the work which I now present to the public. It was then my intention to write on a very limited scale, and to state, as concisely as possible, in the form of Annals, the facts and circumstances only, which I had collected in the course of my researches into the antiquities of the town. These, I imagined, might be regarded by many as curious, and not unworthy of notice. But, in the progress of my labours, I found it impossible to make the narrative distinct, interesting, or satisfactory to myself, without intermingling it, in some degree, with the general history of the country. This naturally induced me to undertake new investigations, in the course of which, I was led to the discovery of various materials which tended to illustrate the ancient state of the Borough, and to throw light upon the manners and customs of its inhabitants, and of the people of Scotland, in former times. These I have accordingly arranged to the best of my judgment, carefully endeavouring to state no more of our national history than what seemed indispensably necessary to bring into the form of a connected narrative, and to render intelligible, the occurrences in which the town of Aberdeen had a considerable share.*

With regard to those political dissensions which have occurred in modern times, and which, I regret to say, are not yet extinguished,

* Many detached incidents of a domestic nature, imperfect accounts of which I found scattered through the records of the town, though they could not, with propriety, be introduced in connected narration, are yet of such importance that they could not be entirely overlooked. The short and incomplete notices of these which I have been able to collect I have placed at the end of the different sections, and arranged in chronological order.

I have derived my information chiefly from the Scots Magazine, and the various publications of the day. This part of the work I have been solicitous to execute, with as much candour and impartiality as a matter of so deep importance to the citizens in general required.

Considering the close vicinity of New and Old Aberdeen, and the intimate connexion that subsisted between them with respect to their religious institutions, and also in many political transactions, I found that my work would be very incomplete, even as a local history, if it did not embrace whatever might deserve attention, in the ancient and modern state of that city. It has thus ultimately assumed the form which induces me to entitle it *ANNALS OF NEW AND OLD ABERDEEN*.

Conceiving Mr. Arnot's History of Edinburgh to be an excellent model of local narrative, I have endeavoured, in this work, as far as circumstances will admit, to follow his arrangement; and even when the similarity of incidents is striking, to adopt his manner of viewing them. Conscious of my inferiority to him in acuteness of remark, and in correctness, beauty, and elegance of style, I cannot presume to be his equal; but in the integrity of my intentions---in the impartiality of my narrations---and in the care with which I have attended to the evidence of facts, I will yield to none. Of that evidence every attentive reader may be fully competent to judge, because I have correctly quoted my authorities in the margin, and inserted at large, in the Appendix, many of the charters, and most curious and important documents. Though, therefore, it may be thought that I have failed in my undertaking, my efforts cannot be entirely lost; for they must serve at least to suggest abundant materials to any future and more able historian of Aberdeen, to lead him to many excellent sources of information; and, of course, to facilitate and abridge his labour in investigating facts. As to the

credibility of what has been stated in this work relating to Aberdeen, in the more early periods of its history, it has been my endeavour, according to the best of my judgment, to reject whatever seemed to be fabulous, or liable to suspicion, and to collect only what appeared to be most authentic among the scanty gleanings which I was able to pick up, in the various writings and ancient authors which have fallen into my hands. To the sources from which these hints were taken I have not failed to refer. The candid reader, therefore, will, I trust, sustain this as a sufficient apology for the broken and interrupted narratives which unavoidably occur in the beginning of this work. From the commencement of regular records, in the year 1398, the registers of the town council are complete, and notice, more or less, every important event in which the town was concerned.

Edward the I. of England, who, in the course of the years 1296 and 1303, was, with his army, in Aberdeen, has indeed been severely censured by our national historians, for destroying all public records which he could lay hold of, while he was in possession of Scotland; but either those of Aberdeen had been carefully concealed, or he had been peculiarly favourable to that town; for it does not appear that one public deed belonging to it has been lost. The charters from William the Lion, and from Alexander the II. and III. are extant to this day; and what other deeds of the least importance could have existed, at that time, respecting the borough, it is impossible to conjecture. From William the Lion to Robert the Bruce, it possesses as complete a progress of writings as could well be expected; and from the reign of Robert to the present day not a single chasm is to be found. What I have affirmed, on the authority of such records, and of such deeds, cannot rationally admit of a doubt; nor can I consider the information which I have taken from many other

sources, to which I invariably refer through the work, as less authentic than what I have derived from the archives of the town.

In my search for information, I regret to say that I have not uniformly obtained that cordial and liberal aid which, perhaps, I was entitled to expect. The motives on which it has been withheld are unknown to me; they may be good, and it does not become me to complain.

It affords me, however, peculiar satisfaction to acknowledge that many individuals, who hold respectable stations in the community, have, in the most handsome manner, and with the greatest cheerfulness, favoured me in this undertaking with every encouragement in their power to give, and with ready access to every book or manuscript in their possession, which could throw light on the objects of my research. To mention the names of all, and the particular obligations which each of them has conferred, would swell this preface to an unpardonable length. But I should be altogether without excuse, if I should omit the just tribute of my thanks to a few, to whose kind indulgence I am indebted for the free and unreserved use of many of the most important documents on which my narrative is founded.

To Mr. WILLIAM CARNEGIE, present town clerk of Aberdeen, and custodier of its records, and to his worthy father, ALEXANDER CARNEGIE of Cookston, who, during a period of more than forty years, filled these offices with equal credit to himself and satisfaction to the community, I am under the highest obligations, for free and constant access to the archives and public deeds of the town, and for their unreserved permission to avail myself of all the information they contain.

TO Mr. WILLIAM COPLAND, town clerk depute, who liberally communicated to me every useful information in the line of his various departments, I owe my warmest thanks; and no less so to Mr. WILLIAM GRAY, one of the clerks in the town house, who, with permission, favoured me, when I wanted them, with the use of every book and paper subservient to my purpose.

I have also to offer my best acknowledgments to Collector CAMPBELL, for favouring me with information respecting the Excise; and to Mr. LYALL, Comptroller of the Customs, for the handsome manner in which he communicated to me all the information I could desire relating to the trade and navigation of the place. Nor am I less indebted to his and the Collector's Clerks, for the readiness with which they aided my investigations; and to Mr. RIDDEL, Clerk of the Shore, for the accurate account which he gave me of the number of ships belonging to the port of Aberdeen.

I feel it incumbent upon me also to acknowledge, with gratitude, my obligations to PRINCIPAL JACK, of King's College, for the very polite manner with which he received my application for an inspection of the archives of the university, and for the unreserved use of the bulls, charters, and other valuable papers and manuscripts belonging to it. Mr. MACLACHLAN, Librarian to the college, with his permission, favoured me, as often as I wanted them, with the use of many valuable and scarce books from the library of the university.

From a manuscript in folio, which appears to have been written by an Episcopal Clergyman residing in Aberdeen, in the early part of the eighteenth century, and to have been compiled from various Books and MSS. then in the King's college, of which several are now amissing, I have selected many interesting particulars. This MS. is

preserved in the Advocate's Library, in Edinburgh, and was pointed out to me by THOMAS THOMSON, Esq. Advocate, Deputy Clerk Register, to whom I am also greatly indebted for his valuable publication of the Chamberlain's Accounts of Scotland, which he kindly sent me in sheets from the press, and which greatly added to my stock of information with respect to the objects of my enquiry.

I have likewise availed myself not a little, in my account of religious houses and other local matters, of a MS. written by Mr. JAMES MANN, sometime Master of the Poor's Hospital in Aberdeen, and Author of the Notes of the Aberdeen edition of Buchannan's History of Scotland, which was published in the year 1762.

It was once my intention to have embellished this work with a few engravings of the principal buildings in both towns; but the difficulty, in this place, of procuring drawings suitable to an engraver—my great distance from eminent artists—and doubts respecting the reception which my labours may receive from the public, obliged me to relinquish this design.

Well, indeed, am I aware, that in the place where an author has spent his days, and is universally known, his first literary production, whatever may be its merits, is not likely to be much esteemed. His fame, if he shall have the good fortune to obtain it, must come from afar, before his writings can be duly appreciated at home. If this be generally true, the contempt arising from familiarity will operate with double force, when its object is a local history, which states, without reserve, the proceedings of the political parties of the day. The abuse, therefore, with which I was repeatedly honoured, at the commencement of this undertaking, even before the first of these sheets was prepared for the press, could neither surprise nor appal

me. The man who, conscious of the strictest impartiality in relating facts, established by the best authority, cannot view with composure the anonymous productions of petty wits, who plume themselves upon their talents for raillery and ridicule, or set his mind above being affected by the calumnies of faction, is unfit to discharge his duty to the public as an annalist.

“ Si qui sint in urbe sua hospites in patria sua peregrina et cognitione semper pueri esse velint, sibi per me placeant, sibi dormeant, non ego illis hæc conscripsi, non illis vigilavi.”

CAMBDEN.

ABERDEEN, 2d NOVEMBER, 1818.

CONTENTS
OF
VOLUME FIRST.

BOOK I.

CHAPTER I.

THE ancient Devana—Local situation of Aberdeen—Etymology—Grants from King Gregory—Institution of Royal Boroughs—King William's Charters—Place of Trade—Charters from King Alexander II.—Town destroyed by Fire—Charters from King Alexander III.—Ancient Constitution of the Borough—Trading Town—reputed for curing Fish Page 1

CHAPTER II.

Affairs of Scotland on the death of Alexander III.—Edward I. takes the Castle of Aberdeen—Sir William Wallace—Robert Bruce—Battle of Barra—Storming of the Castle of Aberdeen by the Citizens—Origin of Bon-Accord—King Robert's Charters to Aberdeen—Town burnt by the English—Origin of the name of New Aberdeen—King David II.—his Grants to the Town—Borough first represented in Parliament—Occurrences—Searcity of Corn—Municipal Laws—John Barbour, the Metrical Historian—Language of the place—Population in the end of the fourteenth century—Coinage—Table of the customs and monies paid by the Town to Government during the fourteenth century p. 16

CHAPTER III.

SECT. I. *Battle of Harlaw—Sir Robert Davidson, provost, slain—Ransom of King James I.—Sir Alexander Irvine of Drum governor of the Town—fortified with Walls—King James II. and the Queen visit the Town—Supreme Court at Aberdeen—Bond of Manrent to the Earl of Huntly—King James III. encouraged foreign trade—Slain at Stirling—Propositions from Lord Forbes, and other Lords, to revenge his death—Sir Andrew Wood's claim to the Castle-hill and Stocket set aside by the Lords of Council—King James IV. visits the Town—the celebration of his marriage attended by the Magistrates—Visit of the Queen—Battle of Flodden—Attack on the Citizens by Seton of Meldrum—King James V. visits the Town—his remission to the community—Licence for fortifying the Town with walls—Contest with Lord Forbes, &c.—The Provost and twenty-four Citizens tried before the Justiciary Court at Linlithgow, and acquitted—Visit of the King—Ships of War fitted out by Aberdeen—John and George Fan, gipsies—Battle of Solway—the Earl of Huntly Provost of Aberdeen—Battle of Pinkey, in which many of the Citizens were killed—the Earl of Arran and the Dowager Queen Mary visit the Town—Miscellaneous Occurrences p. 49*

SECT. II. *Civil government of the Borough—Ancient Elections of the Magistrates and Town Council—Ancient Patrimony—Lands of Old Cruives annexed—Municipal Laws—Commerce—Coinage—Customs—Miracle Plays—Secular amusements, conducted by the Abbot and Prior of Bon-Accord—Religious and Secular Plays, by the Artificers—Religious Ceremonies—Minstrels—Games—Town's Clocks—the Plague, and other Diseases—Weaponshaw—Dress, Armour, and Furniture—Sirnames—Population—Tables of Contributions to the State—Rental of Lands, &c.—Prices of Provisions p. 79*

CHAPTER IV.

SECT. I. *The Reformation, and its first indications at Aberdeen—proceedings of the Reformers there—Mr. Adam Heriot first Pro-*

testant Minister—succeeded by Mr. John Craig—Queen Mary's visit to the Town—Present made to her of two thousand merks—the Earl of Huntly and Sir John Gordon—Battle of Corrichie—Battle of Crabestone, betwixt the Gordons and the Forbeses—the Earl of Morton's oppressions, and attempts to disfranchise Aberdeen—his Grant of the Salmon Fishings of Don to Auchinleck of Balmanno—revoked by James VI.—he visits the Town, and three thousand merks voted for charges, &c.—his marriage with Anne of Denmark—Ship fitted out by Aberdeen to convoy them to Scotland—part of the Queen's Dowry lent to the Town—Birth of the young Princee celebrated—the King's visit to the Town—Popish Lords threaten the Town with fire and sword—Presents made to the Earl of Huntly—Visits of the King and Queen—Depredations of the Highlanders of Glentanner, &c.—Gowrie's Conspiracy—Union of the two crowns—great rejoicings in the Town—King James visits Scotland—his attendants in Aberdeen—his letters to the Magistrates—alarm of the Spanish fleet—King Charles' coronation attended by the provost, &c.—Miscellaneous Occurrences p. 109

SECT. II. *Proceedings of the Citizens at the annual visitation of the public lands, &c.—Patrimony of the Borough given off in fee farm—Constitution of the several corporations of Artificers, &c.—Struggle between them and the Burgesses of Guild—Common Indenture—Proceedings between the Burgesses of Guild and the Administrators of the Town—tumultuous proceedings, &c.—Decree Arbitral of King James, and of the Convention of Boroughs, fixing the set of Aberdeen—Plague—Leprosy—Witchcraft, and Punishments—Ancient Games, &c. fall into disuse—Modern Plays—Printing—Benevolent aids—Feasting—Disposition of the people—Church Session—Ancient Customs continued—Funerals, &c.—Municipal Laws—Commerce, and indication of Manufactures—Coinage in circulation—Punishments—Dress, &c.—Population—Surnames—Tables of Births and Burials, &c.—of Contributions to the State, &c.—and of Prices of Provisions, &c. p. 143*

CHAPTER V.

SECT. I. *Commencement of the civil wars—proceedings of the Covenanters at Aberdeen—Operations of their armies—Montrose's Victories—He sacks Aberdeen—the Marquis of Huntly—Distresses of the Citizens during the war—Arrival of Charles II.—of the English army—Deputies sent to the English Commissioners at Dalkeith—James VII.—Revolution—Various other matters at Aberdeen—Miscellaneous Occurrences* p. 193

SECT. II. *Political affairs of the Borough—Public Debt contracted during the civil wars, &c.—Opposition of the Burgesses to Assessments—Ecclesiastical authority—Quakers—Character and habits of the people, &c.—Trade, and progress of Manufactures, &c.—Post-Office—Progress of Printing—George Jamieson, painter, &c.—Pestilence and Famine—Various domestic matters—Table of Mortmains, for benevolent purposes—of Assessments, &c.—of Births—and of Prices of Provisions, &c.* p. 239

CHAPTER VI.

Accession of George I. to the throne of Britain—Rebellion 1715, and proceedings in Aberdeen—Fire in the Gallowgate—Rigour of the season 1740, with scarcity and dearth—Great Fire in the Broadgate—Traffick of Kidnapping—Rebellion 1745—Rebels in possession of the Town, &c.—Military Riots—Scarcity 1782—Borough Politics in 1752, 1783, and 1817—and various other occurrences p. 281

.....
BOOK II.
.....

CHAPTER I.

Of the ancient and present state of the Town of Aberdeen, Suburbs, &c.—Harbour—and progressive improvements, &c. p. 375

CHAPTER II.

<i>Of the Public Buildings in Aberdeen—the Town-house and Prison— the Cross—the Record Office—Town's Mills—Public Wells, Lamps, &c.—Bridges of Dee and Don</i>	<i>p. 403</i>
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------

CONTINUATION OF THE NARRATIVE.

<i>Proceedings of the Burgesses, Incorporated Trades, and Administra- tors of the Town, for the restoration of its elective franchise— Proceedings before the Privy Council—Warrant granted to the Magistrates and Council elected at Michaelmas, 1816, to nominate New Council and Magistrates, &c.</i>	<i>p. 425</i>
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------

APPENDIX.

<i>No. I. Minutes of the Meetings of the Inhabitants of Aberdeen, and Extracts of Acts of the Town Council respecting the New Streets, with copy of the Act of Parliament</i>	<i>p. 437</i>
<i>No. II. Statement of the Magistrates and Council, of date 19th Sep- tember, 1817</i>	<i>p. 457</i>
<i>No. III. Volunteer Corps of Aberdeen during the late war</i>	<i>p. 459</i>
<i>No. IV. Miscellaneous Occurrences in Aberdeen, from A.D. 1707 to A.D. 1818</i>	<i>p. 461</i>
<i>No. V. Table of the Fiars of the County of Aberdeen, from 1705 to 1816, inclusive</i>	<i>p. 462</i>
<i>No. VI. Charter of the Lands of Ardlair</i>	<i>p. 467</i>
<i>No. VII. Public Improvements of the County</i>	<i>p. 469</i>
<i>No. VIII. Table of Cess and Public Taxes payable by the County, for the years 1808 and 1818</i>	<i>p. 470</i>
<i>No. IX. Poem composed by the Rector of the Grammar School, on the return of James VI. to Scotland, in the year 1617</i>	<i>p. 471</i>

ANNALS

OF

ABERDEEN,

FROM A.D. 84 TO A.D. 1290.

BOOK I.

CHAPTER I.

The ancient Devana—Etymology of Aberdeen—Institution of Royal Boroughs—Charters by King William the Lion, and by Alexander II.—Town destroyed by Fire—Castle of Aberdeen—Charters by Alexander III.—Political Constitution of the Borough—Controversy between the Burgesses of Aberdeen and of Banff, and those of Montrose, before the Governors of the Kingdom—Trade of the Town—its original Inhabitants.

IN the northern regions of Britain, towns and cities were, in ancient times, few and inconsiderable. Their small communities were confined to the lowest order of the people; and till they had acquired some wealth, and had made some progress in commerce, and in the knowledge of useful arts, they were neither enfranchised, nor was their political importance much regarded. On the rise and progress of royal boroughs, our national history throws very little light; and the scanty records that have been preserved furnish but imperfect information, either relating to their ancient form of policy and laws, or concerning events that have befallen them.

A.D. 84.

A.D. 84.

Though it is not the object of this work to venture upon a deep inquiry into the antiquities of North Britain, it is necessary, for our present purpose, to premise, that ABERDEEN, the capital of the county of the same name, was, according to the notices of the earliest geographers, one of the original towns of ancient Caledonia. Situated in its north-eastern territory, it would seem to have been first discovered by the Romans, when they carried their arms into that region, in the seventh and last campaign of Julius Agricola, about the 84th year of the Christian æra. This information we owe to the industry and genius of Ptolemy, the philosopher of Alexandria, who flourished in the second century, and published a description of the terrestrial globe. In table, No. 1. of that work, we observe the position of the town, which is distinguished by the name of *Devana*, laid down on the left bank of the river *Diva*, or *Dee*, near its efflux, at the eastern extremity of the Grampian mountains.* We are also informed, that it was the chief town of the *Texaloi*, who were the inhabitants of that district of Caledonia situated betwixt *Dee* and the northern promontory, which he denominates *Taizalum promontorium*.† In another work, which seems to have been compiled by Richard of Cirencester, in the fourteenth century, descriptive of Romanized Britain, the town and the river are identified by the same names, and *Devana* is mentioned as the town of the *Taixali*,‡ who inhabited the sea coast of that province of Caledonia, which he distinguishes by the name of *Vespasiana*.§

Towns

* Ptolemeus Geo. lib. 2. cap. 3. t. 1. fol. ed.

† Id. 27. Ferrarius Dict. voc. *Devana*—*Diva*—*Texaloi*—*Taizalum Promontorium*, which is, perhaps, *Buchan-ness*, or more probably *Kinnaird's-head*.

‡ The *Taixali* were one of the six warlike tribes, who, under *Galgacus*, the Caledonian chieftain, fought *Agricola*, in the memorable battle at the Grampian hills. The other tribes were the *Horestii* of *Fife*; *Vecturones*, or *Venricones*, beyond the *Tay*, or in *Perth* and *Angus*; *Vacomagi*, of *Moray*, and part of *Inverness*; and the *Damnii Albani*, and *Attacoti* of *Argyle*.

Tacitus Vit. Agricola, cap. 29, 30, 35, 37.—Ptolemy—Richard, lib. i. c. 43.—Ferrarius' Dict.—Pinkerton, vol. ii. p. 210.—Whitaker's Manchester, p. 410. 418.—Caledonia, vol. i. p. 65.

§ The province of *Vespasiana* comprehended all the eastern and northern parts of Scotland, within a line drawn from that point, by *Braemar* and *Blair of Athol*, to the Roman Wall of *Antoninus Pius*. It was so called, in honour of the Emperor *Vespasian*, and continued to be a Roman province for about ninety years; but was lost to the Romans about A.D. 170, by *Calphurnius*, under
Marcus

Towns and cities, and their communities, as well as men, have their infancy, and it is by slow degrees only that they advance to maturity. It would, therefore, be absurd to suppose, that Aberdeen, at the period of the Roman invasion, had the slightest resemblance to a modern town, or that it was a place of regular or general residence. The towns of the Caledonians, after the manner of uncivilized nations, were mostly situated on the bank of some river, having a southern exposure, with some local advantages for shelter and defence; or on the border of some forest, for the convenience of hunting and grazing, which, being the natural employments of man in the infancy of society, were, in the northern regions of the island, the chief pursuits of the people. Accordingly, we find, that Aberdeen, in ancient times, consisted of rude and mean buildings, erected with wood, or stone and turf, and thatched with straw, without much attention to convenience or regularity; and extended, on the river side, from the confluence of the Denburn,* eastward, towards the head of the Shipraw. Bounded on two sides by the sea and by the river, it was almost environed, towards the west and north-west, by the extensive forest of Stocket, which covered the adjacent country, and approached nearly to the summit of the hills on which the greater part of the town is now situated.†

B 2

Such

Marcus Antoninus. By the Itinerary of Richard, and the remains of their encampments, the route of the Roman army, under Severus, can be traced to Burgh-head upon the Moray Frith, under the name of *Ptoroton*. According to the learned Whitaker, that Itinerary had been originally composed as early as the middle of the second century, at a period when the Romans were at the height of their glory in Britain.

* This stream, previous to the year 1648, took an easterly direction along the Trinity friars place, from which it derived the name of the Trinity burn. On reaching the quay-head, which, at that time, extended no farther than the Weigh-house, it directed its course along the south side of the town, and discharged itself in the low grounds near the foot of the Castle-hill; but, after the extension of the quay towards the village of Futtie, the course of the burn was diverted straight into the tideway. In 1747, a bridge of one arch was constructed over the burn, so as to form an entry to the town from the south. In the year 1758, the burn was straightened, and formed into cascades; and, about the year 1776, the rising ground, which is now enclosed, on the west, was planted with wood and shrubbery.

† In digging the foundations of modern houses in the upper parts of the town, large trunks of fallen oak timber, and deep strata of peat, have frequently been found,

A.D. 140.

Such undoubtedly was the local situation of Aberdeen, (or the ancient Devana,*) in its primitive state, and such was the condition of the adjacent country. Its gradual extension, and progress in population, in the course of succeeding ages, till it attained its present degree of importance, shall be related in another part of this work.

1057.

During the Scoto-Saxon period, the town became known by the name of *Aberdoen*, or *Aberdon*; by both of which names it is distinguished in several charters, which shall hereafter be noticed, granted to its burgesses by King William the Lion. In subsequent ages, its name was changed to *Aberdene*, or *Aberdeen*,† which it still retains. The etymology of this is neither doubtful nor uncertain, though, from the conjectures of fancy, some absurd definitions of the etymon have been given by several modern authors. The Gaelic name, which is *Obairreadhain*, pronounced *Oberrayn*, signifies the town situated on the bank or space of ground near the entrance of two rivers; and is compounded of *Abair*, or *Aber*, a well known word, and *Da-abhuinn*, (*Da-avin*),

* The intelligent author of Caledonia has laid down the position of the ancient Devana at Norman Dykes, where vestiges of a Roman encampment have been discovered, about nine miles above the mouth of the river Dee. That Norman Dykes may have been the site of a Roman camp, we shall not presume to controvert; but, if the Taixali occupied any place under the denomination of a town, Aberdeen was undoubtedly the spot. It must also be regarded as the principal itinerary station of the Romans; which circumstance is supported by Mr. Whitaker, in his History of Manchester, and by General Roy, in his Military Antiquities; although, from the defect of local information, they have fallen into the common error of mistaking the Episcopal seat of Aberdeen for the ancient Devana. In tracing the progress of the Romans northward, the learned General has fixed upon the town as one of their stations, and conducts the ninth Iter of Richard along the coast to Ituna, or Ythan, as the next itinerary station. However much these learned authors may differ in their conjectures as to the Roman Itinerary, we shall only observe, that Don was fordable near its mouth, which, in ancient times, was within fifteen hundred yards of the cross of Aberdeen; and the distance from Ythan by the sands, being the nearest road, is nearly fourteen miles. On the entry to the town from the south, there was a pass of the river Dee, a little way below the present bridge, at a place distinguished by the name of the Fords; and thence to Ythan it may be reckoned nearly sixteen English miles. These circumstances, we presume to think, tend to justify both Mr. Whitaker and General Roy in their positions of the itinerary stations of the Romans.

† In ancient records, the name is found to be variously spelt—*Aberdoen*, *Aberdon*, *Abirden*, *Aberdene*, *Abyrdene*; in modern times, invariably *Aberdeen*. On the coins of David II. the impression is *Aberdon*.

(*Da-amin*), two rivers, namely Dee and Don.* This analysis is exactly descriptive of the local situation of Aberdeen, which, in former ages, was almost at an equal distance from the mouths of both rivers; although, about a century ago, the channel of Don, near the town, was altered, and the stream of the river diverted straight into the sea about a mile farther northward than its ancient efflux.† A.D. 1057.

Previous to the time of King William the Lion, it would be vain to search for, or to expect, either from records or from national history, any information of moment respecting the object of our enquiries. We must, therefore, confine the commencement of the narrative to this period, when, by means of records that have been preserved, the sources of information become more copious and authentic than in former ages. 1165.

According to the tale of history and of tradition, it has, however, been asserted, that Aberdeen was erected into a royal borough as early as the time of Gregory the Great, king of Scotland, whose principal residence was at Dunodeer,‡ in the ancient lordship of Garioch, about

* This information was communicated to the author by Mr. Maclachlan, Rector of the Grammar School of Old Aberdeen, whose acute researches and valuable information regarding the Celtic language, are well known.

† Previous to the year 1727, the river Don took a southerly direction, and flowed in the hollow ground of the Links, till it reached the south end of the Cunningairehill: thence it directed its course easterly, almost at a right angle, into the sea, leaving a considerable portion of sandy hills betwixt its left bank and the beach.§ About that time, the proprietors of the fishings altered its channel, and, by artificial means, under the direction of Dr. James Gregory, one of the professors of King's College, diverted the stream of the river, as it flows at present, straight into the sea.||

Probably at some very remote period, Don had continued its former course still farther southward, down the hollow of the Links, till it united with Dee in the harbour, and both together would form one stream into the ocean. This conjecture is in some measure confirmed by the works of Ptolemy and Richard, there being no such river as Don delineated in their maps, or even mentioned in their tables; while Diva, (Dee), and Ituna, (Ythan), in the district of the Taixali, are particularly noticed. In the earlier records of the borough, the river Don is distinguished solely by the name of Aqua Borealis.

§ Council Register, vol. xxviii. p. 367. 461. vol. xxix. p. 307.—Revocation by King James VI. vol. i. p. 124.

|| Proof in the Case of Fraserfield against the Proprietors of the Salmon Fishings on the Nether Don, in the year 1795.

‡ Part of the walls of the castle, said to have been erected by Gregory, and where he died, still remains, the materials being chiefly composed of vitrified matter. Its name, which is descriptive of

A.D. 1165. about twenty-five miles distant from the town ; but such authorities are not to be regarded, nor, indeed, do they merit much attention. It is, perhaps, probable, that as the town was situated within the royal domains, and under the king's immediate protection, he conferred on the citizens privileges and immunities which were common at the time ; but, undoubtedly, no such erection as that of a royal borough could have taken place, in consequence of any writ from the crown, at so remote a period ; for the institution of boroughs, even under their ancient regimen, was not then known, nor was this the æra for written charters in North Britain.

These institutions were probably not introduced earlier than the time of David I. who commenced his reign in the year 1124. Even in France, where more early advances in arts and civilization had been made than in Scotland or in England, the first corporation was instituted sixty years posterior to the Norman conquest. The erection of such communities was an invention of Louis VI. in order to free the people from the yoke of feudal tyranny, and, by means of certain privileges, to afford them protection, and a separate jurisdiction.*

The earliest charters granted by any sovereign to boroughs in Scotland, or to their burgesses, were by King William, who commenced his reign in the year 1165 ; but these are to be considered rather as writs of protection, containing grants of peculiar privileges and immunities to the burgesses,† than as charters erecting them into communities, or bodies corporate, according to the present system of such institutions. In those charters, or writs of protection, which have been preserved, reference is generally made to those
privileges

of its local situation, is derived from the ancient Celtic word *Dun-and-iridh*, signifying the fort on the acclivity of the hill.

* Hume, vol. ii. p. 118.

† The first charter granted by William the Conqueror to the citizens of London, who are now so pre-eminently distinguished by their wealth and independence, was a mere protection, by which he declared that they should be law-worthy, and that every child should be his father's heir after his death.—[*Dalrymple's Essays on the Feudal Law*, p. 33.]

privileges which had been granted to certain boroughs, in the time of David, his grandfather. These were consequently denominated king's boroughs, and their inhabitants *burgenses regis*, as holding their habitation, or *burgagium*, as it was termed, immediately of the crown.* But while those communities had no lands or possessions in common, they remained unincorporated, nor were they capable of being represented in the national council. At the same time, there were other boroughs holding of prelates, of lords of regality, or of barony, distinguished by the terms of regality, or of barony;† and the inhabitants of those boroughs were styled *burgenses* of the lord of the territory. This distinction is accordingly particularly noticed in the *Leges Burgorum*.‡

These burgesses paid a certain sum yearly to the king, or lord, under whose protection they lived, or held their *burgagium*; and also determinate dues and customs, which were exacted by these superiors upon wares and commodities exposed to sale in the markets of the respective boroughs. In return for these taxes, the burgesses were indulged with sundry privileges and immunities, which placed them on a more independent footing than the ceorls, or rustics, whose employment was chiefly confined to agriculture; and laid the foundation of more extensive communities, which were the great means of civilizing the people, and of encouraging and protecting the lower and more industrious orders of the state.

But these privileges were found to be insufficient to protect even the king's burgesses against the tyranny and oppression of the restless nobles and barons of the kingdom. To check, therefore, this grievance, and, at the same time, to preserve the internal peace of the community, and the steady operation of the law, a new policy was introduced, of establishing them into corporations or independent commu-

* *Leges Burgorum*, cap. 1. and 2.

† Glasgow, St. Andrew's, and Brechin, which are now royal boroughs, held originally of their respective Bishops.—Haddington held of Ada, widow of Prince Henry; and many other boroughs, of Ecclesiastics, of Lords of Regality and of Barony.—[*Caledonia*, vol. i. p. 776.—*Cranford's Peccage*.]

‡ *Leges Burgorum*, cap. xv. p. 134.

A.D. 1165. communities, by charters from the crown, granting them a certain territory for payment of an yearly sum, and authorising them to choose their own magistrates; at the same time confirming the ancient privileges and immunities which they enjoyed. Being thus enfranchised by the sovereign, and rendered, in some respects, less dependent on the crown, they consequently became entitled to a voice, by their representatives, in the national parliament.

This was an important change and refinement in the political system of the towns and boroughs of Scotland; but with regard to Aberdeen, it was not fully accomplished till the reign of the illustrious Robert Bruce, as shall be afterwards more particularly noticed in the course of the narrative.

1179. Aberdeen, being a trading town, was certainly among the earliest of the king's boroughs found entitled to any pre-eminent mark of distinction from the crown. About this time, King William, by a charter, bearing date at Perth, granted and confirmed to his burgesses of Aberdeen, and to all those of Moray, and on the northern parts of the *mounth*,* the privilege of holding their mercantile association, which is termed *liberum Ansum suum*,† where they pleased, and when they pleased, as freely, quietly, fully, and honourably, as their ancestors enjoyed this privilege in the time of David, his grandfather.‡
William

* The Grampian mountains.—The king's boroughs, situated to the north of these, appear to have been Dyngwall, Invernes, Elgin, Forais, Aberden, Crumbathi, (*Cromarty*), Fyuyne, (*Fyvie*), Invernaſ, (*Nairn*), and Kyntor.—[*Royal Archives in 1292.*]

† *Ansum*, or in German *Hanse*, which, although authors differ widely in their definition of the word, seems to imply a privilege given to the king's burgesses of acting as a corporate body, or mercantile association, with power of establishing regulations, or bye-laws, for their own internal government. Hence the *Hanse* towns of the continent, and *Hanseatic* association by the merchants of Hamburgh and of Lubec.—[*Macpherson's Commerce*, vol. i. p. 417.]

‡ Infeodacio R. Ansi

W. di Gŕa Rex Scoti. Omib⁹ p̄b hōib⁹ toci⁹ fr̄e sue Saluē Sciant p̄sentef ⁊ fut⁹j me Con-
ceſſiſſe ⁊ hac Carta mea Confirmāſſe Burgēſib⁹ meis d̄ Aſdoen . ⁊ omib⁹ Burgenſib⁹ d̄
Morauiā . ⁊ Omib⁹ Burgenſib⁹ meis ex Aq'loualj pte de Mūnth manētib⁹ . liſū Anfū ſuū
Tenēdū u¹ voluerit ⁊ q'ndo voluerit . Ita liſe ⁊ q'ete plenarie ⁊ honorifice Sicut Añceſſores
eor⁹ tēpe Reḡ DD . Auj mej Anfū ſuū liſi⁹ ⁊ honorificēci⁹ habuerunt . Q're phibeo firmi⁹
Ne

William, who early perceived the advantages which the nation derived from the traffic of his boroughs, zealously promoted their interests by granting them immunities and privileges in the way of trade; and to his burgesses of Aberdeen he seems to have been peculiarly favourable. As an encouragement to prosecute commerce and useful arts, the king, at this time, granted them two special charters, in consequence of which they were entitled to enjoy exemption from certain petty taxes and impositions, to which their commodities were liable, when exposed to sale in the public markets of the kingdom. These two charters, which bear date at Aberdeen, the 28th of August, are of the same tenor, and almost in the same words.*

c

From

Ne q'f eos ind Vexet aut Disturbet Sup meā plenariā foriffacturā Test· . Andř Eġo de Katenef Comiř . Duneč Justič . Gillebto Comiř d St'dhern Comiř G . d Aneg^o . Ricardo de Oreuitt . Cōftab . Walfo de Berket . Cañ . G. d Maleuitt Hugōe Giffard Malisio frē Comitif . d St'ħ . Apd Pert.

(*Sigillo dilapso.*)

That charter was probably granted in the year 1179, when King William and his brother David were advancing to Ross with an army, in order to quell some disorders in that quarter. This is confirmed by the circumstance of the witnesses, whose names are mentioned in the testing clause, holding public offices about the time. Those are—Andrew, Bishop of Caithness, who died in the year 1185; Dunecan, or Duncan, Earl of Fife, Justiciary of Scotland in 1165, who died in 1204; Gilbert, Earl of Strathern; Gilchrist, Earl of Angus, one of the hostages for King William to Henry II.; Richard de Moreville, High Constable of Scotland in the reigns of King Malcolm IV. and King William; Walter de Berkeley, Chamberlain of Scotland, who succeeded Nicolas in 1171; Galfred de Malevill, the chief of an ancient family that flourished in the reign of Malcolm IV. and was possessed of lands in Lothian; Hugo Giffard, son of Hugh Giffard, proprietor of lands in Lothian, and one of the hostages for King William to King Henry; Malisius, the brother of the Earl of Strathern.

Index to Anderson's Diplomata—Rymer's Fœdera, vol. i. 59—Crawford's Officers of State—Caledonia, book iv. chap. 1.

* Infeodacio Tollonii de pp'is cataħ

W . di gřa Rex Scoti . Eġif . Aġtib^o . Coñ . Baroñ . Justič . Viceč . ġpōitis . ġinist'f .
 & Omib^o pbif hōinib^o toc^o frē sue clific & laieif salī . Sciant ġřentef & fut'j me in ppetuū quietof elamasse ōef burgenfes meof de Aberdon a tolneio de pp'if cataħ suif p totū regnū meū p bono seruicio qđ idē burgenfes mei m' fecerūt . Et ido nolo ut nħm p regnū meū dent tolneiu de pp'if cataħ . suif . & firmit^o ġcipio ut ubicūq in regno meo uenerit . ppetuo a tolneio q'etj sint de pp'if cataħ . suif . Q'r phibeo firmit^o ne quis in regno meo eof iniuste uexare ġřupmat in exigendo ab eis de pprijf cataħ eoq tolneiu . sup meam plenariā foriffacturam . Test· . Rič . Eġo . Moraue . Coñ . Duneč Justič . Gilleč . Coñ . de ġař . Wiřto & Walfo

A.D. 1196.

From the period of these royal grants, we may be allowed to date the institution of the guildry, or mercantile fraternity of Aberdeen. This, in the progress of time, became more numerous, and the burghesses more peculiarly commercial, not only from the influence of those privileges and immunities that emanated from the liberality of their sovereign, but from the natural consequence of trade and commerce, which contributed to introduce regular government, police, and arts among them; and by which additional inhabitants were imperceptibly allured to the town.* William, during the course of his long reign, was distinguished not only for the patronage which he afforded to his boroughs, but, as a legislator, for many salutary statutes which he enacted for the security of their privileges, and for the better government of their communities.†

In

Capitū meī · Philipp de Valoñ · Alañ fīl Rolland · constaβ · Wiſſo de Haia · Wiſſo Giffard
Vmfīr de berkaſ · Henī Reuel · Thoñ Thancard · Yuone de Veſj ponte · Walf · fīl Sibald ·
Apd Aberdon xxviii die Aug^oti.

(*Sigillo viridis ceræ integro.*)

King William probably granted these charters in the year 1196, when in his progress northward to suppress the insurgents in Caithness, headed by Harold, Earl of Orkney and Caithness. The witnesses, whose names are mentioned in the testing clause, are—Richard, Bishop of Moray, who succeeded to the see in 1187, and died in 1203; Gilchrist, Earl of Mar; William, Chaplain to the King, Bishop of Glasgow in 1208; Walter, Chaplain to the King; Philip of Valoniis, Lord of Panmure; Allan, the Son of Rolland de Galloway, Constable of Scotland, from whom John Baliol was descended; William de Hay, Pincerna or Cup-bearer to King William, and one of the hostages to Henry II.; William Giffard, son of William, one of the hostages for King William in 1174; Umfred de Berkeley, who obtained from King William a grant of the manor of Conveth, now called Laurencekirk, Monbodach, Balfith, Glenfarquhar, &c. in the shire of Mearns, and Inverkeilor, in Angus; Henry Rouel, a foreigner, who obtained from King William a grant of the lands of Cultrath, in Fife; Thomas Thancard, son of Thancard, a Flemish leader, who obtained from Malcolm IV. a grant of lands in Clydesdale; and Yvan de Veteri Ponte, baron of the manor of Great Sorby and Little Sorby, obtained from the Lord of Galloway in the time of King William.

Chalmers' Caledonia, vol. i. book iv. cap. 1.—Index to Anderson's Diplomata—Crawford's Peerage.

* In 1209, there were a great number of English inhabitants settled in the boroughs of Scotland. These had now made considerable progress in manufactures and trade, and consequently in opulence, which is evident from their contribution of 6000 merks to the sum of 15000, given by King William as a marriage portion to his two daughters, who were contracted to the two sons of John, King of England.—[*Rymer*, vol. i. p. 155.]

† William, when at Aberdeen, in the year 1177, passed an assize, bearing date forty days after the coming of Vivian, the Pope's Legate into Scotland. This statute, which is entitled "De

In this age, it could scarcely be said that the monarch had any fixed place of residence: he was often obliged to make circuits through the kingdom, that he might be better able to exercise his regal authority in correcting those disorders, to which the nation, owing to the loose and unsteady administration of the government, was frequently exposed. King William, in the course of these circuits, having honoured Aberdeen with his occasional visits, erected, for his personal residence, in the east end of the Green, an edifice, which, although distinguished by the name of his palace, consisted only of low detached buildings, neither magnificent for the age, nor remarkable for their construction. This property he afterwards bestowed on the monks of the holy Trinity, who, with a view to promote the cultivation of piety, according to the rites of superstition that then prevailed, and for other religious purposes, had, at this time, been introduced into Scotland, and were established at Aberdeen.* The palace was thus converted into a monastery for these monks; and remained in their occupation till the period of the Reformation.

A.D. 1196.

1211.

About this time, we are informed that King William instituted in Aberdeen an exchequer, with a mint, near the west end of Castlegate, for a new coinage of the money of Scotland, which had become scarce, in consequence of the great drain of payments made by him to Richard of England.† Of the coins so issued, many specimens are to be found in the cabinets of the curious. This place afterwards became known by the name of the Exchequer-raw,‡ and by that name the street is still distinguished.

c 2

King

transeundo de nocte," is to be found in the *Leges Burgorum*, and is there erroneously ascribed to David I.—[*Caledonia*, vol. i. p. 734. 759.—*Leges Burgorum*, cap. 118.]

* Boecius Hist. lib. xiii. p. 279. s. 50.

† Henry's History of Britain, vol. v. p. 263.

‡ In this street, which enters from the south end of Castlegate, there is an ancient house, (supposed to have been erected in the time of King David II.) which, though it has since undergone many alterations, distinguishes the place where the Exchequer was situated. In that street the abbot and monks of Scone were possessed of a tenement, § which had been granted to them by Alexander I. whose reign commenced in the year 1107.

§ Charter in Sir J. Dalrymple's Coll. ap. No. 2.—*Rotuli Scotiæ*, p. 25.

A.D. 1214.

King Alexander II. who now commenced his reign, was also a considerable benefactor to the town, and occasionally honoured it with his visits, in the course of his circuits through the kingdom.

1222.

During the Christmas festival of this year, he visited the town, accompanied by his sister, the Princess Isabella, and was honourably entertained, according to the custom of the age.* After the example of his father King William, and for the same religious purposes, he established at Aberdeen the Dominican or Black friars, and founded a monastery for them in the place which is now occupied as the site of Robert Gordon's hospital, on the north side of the School-hill.

Although commerce and manufactures were still in their infancy, they had, by this time, made some progress in the town. Alexander, with a view to encourage the prosecution of those desirable objects, soon after his accession to the throne granted to the borough and to his burgesses of Aberdeen, a charter,† which is dated
at

* Wyntoun's Chronykil, b. vii. c. 9. 298.

† Carta Infeodaçōis Reg^o Alex² p^{ri}mi filii Wi^llmi Reg^o

Alex² . dei G^{ra} Rex Scotⁱ . Ep^{is} . Abbatib⁹ . Comitib⁹ . baronib⁹ . Justicⁱ . Vicecomitib⁹ . p^{ro}positis Minist^{ri} et omib⁹ . probis Hōinib⁹ . Tocius Terre sue . Clericis et laicis . Saluē . Sciant p^{re}sentes et fut^uri . me Concessisse . et Hac Carta mea confirmasse . burgo meo et burgenfib⁹ meis de Aberdeñ . iura et lib^{er}tates que predecessores mei concesserūt burgo et burgenfib⁹ dⁱ Perⁱ . Sci^licet ut habeant forum suum die Sabbati in q^{uo}libet Ebdomada . meamq^{ue} firmam pacem dedi iuste omib⁹ p^{ro}bis Hōinib⁹ qui ad forum illd^{um} uenient . Et phibeo ne quis eis i ueniendo ad forum uel i redeundo iuriam . vel molestiam . aut g^{ra}uamen iniuste iⁿferat . sup^{er} meam plenariam forissacturam phibeo et firmi^{us} ne q^{ui}s m^{er}chator ext^{er}neus infra vicecomitatu de Aberdeñ . ext^{er} burgum meum de Aberdeñ . aliq^{ui}d emat uel uendat sup^{er} meam defensionem . Set ext^{er}nei merchatores deferant merchat^{us} suas ad burgum meū de Aberdeñ . et eas ibi uendant et denarios suos impliceant . Si quis uero merchator ext^{er}neus sup^{er} defensionem meā inuent^{us} f^uit i vicecomitatu de Aberd^{um} . aliq^{ui}d emens uel uendens capiat^{ur} et detineat^{ur} donec uoluntate meā de eo p^{re}cepto phibeo et firmi^{us} . ne Q^{ui}s merchator ext^{er}neus fecet pannum suū ad uendendū in foro de Aberdeñ nisi a die Ascensionis d^{omi}ni . usq^{ue} ad vincula S^{an}cti Pet^{ri} infra q^{uo}d^{am} t^{em}p^{us} . uolo ut ip^{si} fecent pannū suū . ad uendendū in foro de Aberdeñ . et ibi emant et uendant pannum et alias merchat^{us} suas cōmuni^{us} cum burgenfib⁹ meis . sicut d^{omi}ni burgenfes mei . saluis Rectitudinib⁹ meis . Precipio et ut om^{ne}s qui manent in burgo de Aberd^{um} et cum b^{ur}genfib⁹ meis ad forū cōmunicare uoluerit cōmunicent cum illis ad auxilia mea reddenda . cui^{us}cūq^{ue} homin^{es} sint . phibeo et ne aliqua taberna habeat^{ur} in aliq^{ui} uilla in vicecomitatu de Aberdeñ . nisi ubi miles sit d^{omi}n^{us} nulle . et in ea manens . et ibi nō habeat^{ur} n^{isi} una sola Taberna . Concedo et eisdem burgensib⁹ meis de Aberdeñ ut habeant Gildam suā merchatricem . exceptis fullonib⁹ et telariis phibeo et firmi^{us} ne Q^{ui}s manens ext^{er} burgū meū de Aberd^{um} i vice

at Alyth, the 27th of February, confirming to them the same laws and liberties which his royal predecessors had conferred on the borough and burgesses of Perth; with the privilege of holding within the town a weekly market on Sabbath, and of instituting a merchant-guild, or mercantile confraternity, conformable to the policy which had been already introduced in the kingdom; but from this institution fullers and weavers were expressly excluded.* By that charter, the king, according to the narrow maxims which prevailed in that age, prohibits merchant strangers within the shire, who did not belong to the town, from carrying on traffic; and directs them to bring their merchandize to the market of the borough, where only they were to negotiate trade. He also prohibits them from making woollen cloth for sale in the town's market, unless between Ascension day and Lammas; during which period they were permitted to manufacture such cloth, but for the express purpose only of being sold in the public market of the town, where the owners were to carry on commercial intercourse with the king's burgesses. He likewise prohibits every person dwelling in the county, and without the freedom

comitatu de Aberdeñ faciat pannum tinctum uel tonfum in vicecomitatu de Aberd. uel facere faciat preſ b'genſes meof de Aberdeñ . q' sunt in Gilda merchatoria ⁊ qui cōmunicant ad auxilia mea reddenda cū b'genſib' meis de Aberdeñ . exceptis illis qui de hac libtate cartam suam hucufq habueūt . Q're phibeo firmiſ . ne q'ſ ī vicecomitatu de Aberd . facere pſumat pannū tinctū uel tonfum . ſup meā plenariā forisfacturā . Si uero alicui' pann' tinctus uel tonſus inuent' ſūit factus ſup hāc deſenſionem . precipio vicecomiti mō q'tin' capiat pānum . ⁊ inde faciat ſcdm qd conſuetudo fuit t̄p'r Regiſ . DD . pau mei . phibeo ⁊ firmiſ ne q'ſ ext'neus extra burgum meum de Aberdeñ . emat uel uendat Coria uel lanam n' ī burgo mō de Aberdeñ . Haſ aut' ōes libertates ⁊ conſuetudines illis concedo ⁊ hac Carta mea Confirmo . Saluis libtatib' ⁊ liberis cōſuetudinib' que ante conceſſionem iſtam date fueūt aliis burgis ⁊ burgenſib' infra balliam de Aberdeñ . Precipio aut' firmiſ balliis meis de Aberdeñ . q'tin' p'dictis burgenſib' meis de Aberden . auxiliantes ſint . ⁊ eos iuſte manuteneant ad pred'cas rectas conſuetudines burgi habendas . Et phibeo ne Q's p'dcōs burgenſes mōs cont' p'dictas Rationabiles leges ⁊ conſuetudines iniuſte uexare pſumat . ſup meā plenariam forisfacturam Teſt' . Wiſt . de Boſcho Canct' mō . Comite Malcolm . de ſiſ . Walteſ de Lindeſ . Johe de Maccuſwet . DD Marſcaſ . Walteſ Cuſm . Jordañ Cumiñ Heruič Mareſcaſ . DD de Haſtig . Malcolm pincerna . Roſ de Sēo Claro . Apd Alicht xxvij die Februaſ

(*Sigillo avulso.*)

* Perhaps fullers and weavers enjoyed separate, and probably more ample, privileges, otherwise their exclusion from the gildry seems unreasonable and absurd.

A.D. 1222. freedom of the borough, unless those who were burgesses of Aberdeen, and members of the merchant-guild, from manufacturing dyed or *shorn* cloth, in the shire, under the pain of forfeiture, according to the usage in the time of David, his great-grandfather.

1244. About this time, according to the accounts of Major and of Fordun, Aberdeen was destroyed by accidental fire; at the same time, Haddington, Lanark, Stirling, Perth, Forfar, and Montrose experienced a similar calamity.* We are also informed by Boecius,† that twenty years afterwards Aberdeen again suffered by fire; but in that age a circumstance of this kind was not uncommon in many other towns in Britain, where the houses of the inhabitants were mostly built of wood, and thatched with straw or heath, which rendered them peculiarly liable to the ravages of fire.

1264. In the early part of the reign of Alexander III. a citadel‡ was built on elevated ground, at the eastern extremity of the town, where the military barracks are now situated. This had, perhaps, been rendered necessary for its defence, and as a place of security to the inhabitants and their property from the depredations of the numerous piratical cruizers§ which, at that time, infested the coast, and not unfrequently landed for the sake of pillage. It was one of the fortresses which, after the death of Alexander, was surrendered to Edward I. of England, at the commencement of the famous controversy respecting the succession to the crown of Scotland. ||

The boroughs of the kingdom having made gradual advancements in commerce and the useful arts, and their constitution being founded on the principles of exclusion and monopoly, their several communities were solicitous to obtain from the crown charters which
entitled

* Fordun, vol. ii. p. 75.

† Boecius' His. lib. xii. f. 302.

‡ Chamberlain's Accounts, temp. R. Alexandri III. p. *19.

§ In the year 1153, Esteyn, one of the joint Kings of Norway, in the course of a piratical cruise along the British coast, landed and pillaged Aberdeen, which, at that time, was known in Norway as a trading town.—[*Macpherson's Commerce*, vol. i. p. 332.]

|| Rotuli Scotiæ, p. 11.

entitled them to enjoy the exclusive privilege of trade in their own particular district. Accordingly, we find, that the burgesses of Aberdeen had, during this period, been peculiarly distinguished by various grants of this description from their sovereign; which, amidst the disorders of war, and the many civil commotions in which the nation was involved in after-times, have been carefully preserved. A.D. 1264.

At this time, King Alexander, by a charter,* bearing date at Kintore, granted and confirmed to them the privilege of instituting within the borough a yearly market, limited in its duration to fourteen days, subsequent to Trinity day, with all the rights, liberties, privileges, and customs pertaining to fairs. He also passed another charter,† dated at Kincardine, by which he granted his royal protection, not only to the burgesses themselves, but to their servants, their lands and property, moveable and immoveable, which were declared to be liable for their own proper debts and personal delicts only. 1274. 1277.

* *Concessio Nundinarum*

Alex di gr̃a Rex Scottor̃ Om̃ibus probis Hominibz Tocius Terre Sue Salū . Nōdītis nos concessisse dedisse ⁊ p̃fenti Carta ñra confirmasse Burgenfibz ñris de Aberdeñ dīlētis ⁊ fidelibz ñris ut habeant Singulis Annis a Die S̃c̃e Trinitatis Nundinas in Burgo ñro de Aberdeñ p̃ duas septimanas continue sequentes duraturas . cum om̃ibus Juribus Lib̃tatibz . Rectitudinibz . ⁊ cōsuetudinibz ad alias Nundinas ñras In Burgis ñris p̃ Regnum ñrm constitutas iuste p̃tinentibus Testibus Willelmo Cumyñ de Kylbr̃yde . Thoma Ranulphi tunc . Cam̃ario . Reginaldo le Cheñ . Rob̃to de Cambrūñ . Willelmo de S̃c̃o Claro . P̃ficio de Grah̃am . ⁊ Willelmo B̃yseth . Apud K̃yntor̃ Sec̃do die Decembr̃ . Anno regni ñri . vicesimo q̃nto :

(*Sigillo integro.*)

† *L̃ra p̃tectiōis Reg̃is Alex²*

Alex dei gr̃a Rex Scott̃ omnibz probis hominibz toci⁹ fr̃e sue ad quos presentes littere p̃ueniunt . Salū . Sciatis nos burgenſes ñros de Abirden fr̃as suas homines suos ⁊ vniūſas eorū poſſeſſiones ac om̃ia bona ſua mobilia ⁊ im̃obilia ſub f̃ma pace ⁊ p̃tectiōe ñra iuſte ſuſcepisse Q̃re firmi⁹ p̃hibem⁹ . ne quis eis malum . moleſtiam iniuriam ſeu g̃uamen aliquod inferre p̃ſumat iniuſte ſup̃ ñram plenariam foriſſacturā . Conceſſim⁹ ⁊ eiſdem vt nullus namos ſuos vel alicui⁹ ip̃or̃ ſeu hominū Suor̃ capiat p̃ alicui⁹ debito . p̃legiagio vel foriſſacto . niſi p̃ ſuo pp̃o debito p̃legiagio vel foriſſacto firmi⁹ inhibentes ne quis eos vel aliquē ip̃or̃ cont̃ hanc conceſſionem ñram vexare p̃ſumat iniuſte ſup̃ ñram plenariā foriſſacturam . Teſt̃ . Willelmo Cumyñ de Kelebrid . Willelmo de S̃c̃o Claro . Symone ffr̃as . Pat̃cio de Grah̃am ap̃ K̃yncard̃yñ vicesimo Septimo die Januari Anno regni ñri vicesimo octauo.

(*Sigillo integro.*)

A.D. 1277. only. In consequence of this last charter, the political condition of the citizens, and their families, was essentially improved, and their persons and property rendered more secure from oppressive and arbitrary exactions.

The civil government of the town,* since the time of King William, had gradually assumed a regular form, according to the genius of the feudal law, which then predominated; a municipal jurisdiction was established, and a distinction of ranks observed. This government seems to have been a sort of oligarchy, vested in an alderman and four baillies, with a common council, chosen annually from the burgesses who were members of the guildry. The alderman, or provost, being the chief magistrate, appointed the times and places of the periodical meetings of the guild court, in which he presided; but his powers were rather limited than arbitrary, and his authority depended more on his personal qualities than on his station. In these courts, the alderman and baillies,† who, in consequence of their offices, were invested with jurisdiction, heard and determined, in a summary manner, without much formality or delay, all controversies that occurred among the citizens. These magistrates also, by the exercise of their authority, maintained the public peace, and good order of the community; and, besides having the power of embodying and training the citizens to arms on any emergency, they possessed the right of levying, for public purposes, taxes that were imposed by common consent of the inhabitants, assembled in an ordinary head court. In the year 1270, we find the municipal government of the town under the administration of a distinct set of magistrates, distinguished by the respective titles of alderman and of baillies; from which period a regular succession of these officers

* The town's common seal, which was used in the time of David I. bore a temple, Saint Nicholas in the porch, mitred, with the legend—*Sigillum de Communi Abirdonensi*.

† This office was first instituted in France, towards the end of the twelfth century. As the sovereign could not decide every cause in person, where a separate jurisdiction was established he appointed *baillis*, with a right of jurisdiction in different districts of the kingdom, where they possessed powers somewhat similar to those of the ancient *comites*. Hence the office of baillies in our royal boroughs.—[Robertson's *Charles V.* note 23.]

officers* can be traced, from the records and other authentic writings, to the present time. A.D. 1277.

During the long reigns of Alexander II. and Alexander III. Scotland continued in a state of peace and prosperity, and enjoyed those blessings till the fatal invasion of Edward I. of England, in the end of the century, when the ravages of war which followed that event desolated the country, impoverished the nation, and ruined its prosperity. At the close of the reign of Alexander III. we find that commerce and manufactures, which were chiefly confined to the boroughs† of the kingdom, were in a progressive state of improvement; and that Aberdeen not only enjoyed the benefit of domestic traffic, but carried on foreign commerce correspondent with its means. Having the advantage of a sea port, it possessed small trading vessels,§ with which merchants ventured to frequent the ports of the opposite continent, to barter their commodities; and this sort of traffic being the only source from which the community could derive either opulence or power, they early experienced its advantages, and improved upon it. The town, besides, by means of its extensive privileges, had become the staple of the north; and merchants from

D

other

* In a charter by David II. (preserved in the archives of Marischal College,) confirming various grants made to the Carmelite friars, in the thirteenth century, the following sets of magistrates occur, as witnesses, in the testing clauses of the deeds confirmed:—

<i>Baillies.</i>	<i>Baillies.</i>	<i>Baillies.</i>
1270 Ricardus Cementar	1273 Math de Gretheuid	1285 Joh ⁿ de Annegos
Walterus de Malemuk	Rogerus de Ripun	Wilm ^o Marescallus
Duncanus de Lasceles	Thomas Erneach	Thomas frater Laurencii
Thomas filius Alicie	Wilm ^o Spurnecurtoys	Hugo Ruffo

Alderman.

1285 Malcolm^o de Pelgouenie.

† In the Great Chamberlain's Accounts, for the year 1264,‡ we have an exact detail of the revenue of the crown at this period, and it amounts to L.5413 13s. Of this sum, there was received from the boroughs L.675 18s. 2d. or about one eighth part, which is equal to L.24,332 14s. in modern Scottish money.

§ The bishop of Aberdeen had a grant from King David I. of the tenth of the Tonnage or customs of the ships trading to and from the port of Aberdeen, as a part of the revenue of his see.—[*Chartulary of Aberdeen.*]

‡ Chamberlain's Accounts, temp. Regis Alexandri III. p. *16.

A.D. 1277. other boroughs occasionally resorted to its periodical markets, for the purpose of commercial intercourse. Its external commerce was confined chiefly to the Netherlands, whither it exported salmon, wool, hides, and woollens: these being the basis of its traffic, were consequently exchanged for stuffs of Flanders, for salt, wine, iron, and other commodities of that region, adapted to domestic purposes. We also find, that a commercial intercourse was established with England, and that fish and wool were occasionally exported to that country.*

1287. Though, in this age, the royal boroughs were neither numerous nor considerable, some of them enjoyed the exclusive privilege of domestic traffic over extensive districts, and often strived to exclude other boroughs from that benefit. This circumstance excited a spirit of jealousy among the burgesses of towns that were not entitled to the same privileges, and frequently occasioned dissensions and disturbances in the public markets. There consequently arose, at this time, a serious contention between the burgesses of Montrose and those of Aberdeen, originating from a collision of interests regarding the privilege of markets within their respective boroughs; and having become the subject of a controversy between them, before the guardians of the kingdom, a commission was issued, under the great seal,† directed to the abbots of Couper and of Scone, and
to

* The salmon of Aberdeen, being its staple commodity, was early celebrated for the superior mode in which it was cured and prepared for market, and was not unfrequently exported to the capital fishing port of Yarmouth. In 1281, Adam of Fulham was commissioned by the sheriffs of Cumberland and Lancaster to purchase one hundred barrels of sturgeons, (salmon), of five cwt. each, five thousand salt fish, and a quantity of dried fish, of Aberdeen, to be exported to Chester. Four hundred fish of Aberdeen, two hundred stock fish, one small barrel of sturgeons, (salmon), five dozen of lampreys, fifty pounds of whale, (*' balen,'*) and half a last of herrings, composed the fish part of the provisions on board a ship fitted out at Yarmouth, to bring over the infant Queen of Scotland from the court of her father, the King of Norway.—[*Macpherson's Commerce, (Note), vol. i. p. 436.*] In the Wardrobe Accounts of Edward I. for the year 1299, published by the Society of Antiquaries of London, mention occurs, in the article of provisions to his army, of 18,500 red herrings, and 5496 stock fish of Aberdeen.—[*Page 118.*]

† W. & R. pmissiōe diuina fēi Andř et Glafgueñ Epi. Duncan⁹ Coñ de ffyf. Aleř Cumy Coñ de buchñ gftē & Juft⁹ Scoč Johes Cumy . & Jacobus feñ scoč custodes Regni scoč de cōmuni gfilio gstituti Omibz pbis hōibz ciuile regni ad quos p̄sentes lre puencrint. Salī . Scia-

three burgesses of Perth, authorising them to hear and determine the question, according to justice, and the assize of the land. But nevertheless the burgesses of Montrose continued occasionally to disturb the markets of Aberdeen: a complaint was, therefore, preferred to the guardians, by the burgesses of Banff, against those of Montrose, for molesting them in the enjoyment of the benefit of the markets of Aberdeen; but how that grievance was redressed, we have not been informed. The original complaint,* along with the commission, is preserved in the archives of the town.

Among the most interesting topics of antiquarian research are, the people, their customs, and their language. Though, perhaps, it

D 2

may

tis q. constituim⁹ loco nři . Religiosos viros Andreā & Hugonē . de Cupir . & de Scoñ Abbates . Cristinū de Insula . Joheṃ Ailbot & Joheṃ filiū Ricardi burgeñ de pt⁹ vel eoꝝ t⁹s aut duos apd Scoñ die Jouis p̄x post Ascensionē dñi p̄x futuř ad audiendū & īminandū iuste & scdm Af-fisam tře loquelam seu querelam motā inl burgeñ & Communā de Abirdeñ ex vna pte . et burgeñ et omunā de Munros⁹ ex altera . Sup nūdinis villaꝝ de Abirdeñ & de Munros⁹ Scdm tenorē Cartā suā q⁹s inde hnt . Q⁹re vob mandam⁹ & p̄cipim⁹ q⁹tin⁹ d̄cis Andř & Hugoni Abbatibꝫ . Cristino Joñi . & Joñi . burgenfibus vel eoꝝ tibus aut duobꝫ tāq loco nři p̄stitutis fitis in p̄missis intendentes & respondentes . In cui⁹ rei testimoniū has lras patentes sigillo regimini regni Scoč deputato . fecim⁹ sigillari . Dat apud Edinburg⁹ octauo die Maii anno gře M⁹ CC⁹ octoꝝ septimo .

(The seal, in white wax, remains entire.)

* Lra pīs de Banf

Viris puidis & discretis custodibus regni scoč . de cōi p̄filio constitutis & cēis magnati-bus eiusdē consilij residentibus p̄positi ac cēi lurgenses cōmune de Banff . Salū & debitam ad honoris obsequia reuēciam . Vob grāi⁹ conquerendo monstamus qd cū dñs Aleḡ qndā rex scoč inclite recordacōnis q̄sdam nūdinis in burgo de Aberdiñ tenendas & hndas ad utilitatē nřam & alioꝝ burgoꝝ ex aquilonari pte monciū existenciū p cartam suam concessisset & impetuū confirmasset . queq̄dē nūdine p burgenses de Munros⁹ impediuntur & singlis annis pturbantur in nō modicū p̄iudiciū & g⁹uam p̄fati burgi de Abdiñ immo totius puincie ex aquilonari pte . Q⁹re vře discretoř reuēde humilif Supplicam⁹ attencius petentes q⁹tinus tenorē carte supius nominate dco burgo de Abdiñ concessisse p̄p utilitatē pupplicam ac neccessitatē dcoꝝ burgenfiū de Abdiñ illesū si placet scdm libtates infra cartam suam contentas obŋuari faciatis . Ita ne occasione Inquietacōnis seu pturbacōnis dcoꝝ burgenfiū de Munros⁹ ulfius dampnū seu iactura nob inferatur n inde masia conquerendi p defcū iusticie nob tribuat⁹ . In cui⁹ rei testimoniū figillū nřm cōmune hiif lris patentibus est appensū Dat apd Banff doca p̄x ante carni puñ . anno dñi M⁹ CC⁹ octoꝝ nono .

(The seal is torn away.)

A.D. 1289. may be more an object of curiosity than of any real moment to enquire who were the progenitors of the people of the town, the history of which we have now commenced, yet, nevertheless, this deserves some degree of consideration. That the aborigines of Aberdeen were of a celtic tribe will not, perhaps, be controverted; but from the time of David I. a mixed people, consisting of Anglo-Saxons, Anglo-Normans, and Flemings, had imperceptibly collected in the principal towns on the north-east coast of Scotland,* particularly in Aberdeen. These strangers having settled, and intermixed with the inhabitants, in the progress of ages acquired, by the addition of their numbers, an ascendancy in the town, and dictated to the people their language, their laws, their manners, and their customs. †

* Caledonia, vol. i. b. 4. ch. 1.

† Charters to the Carmelite Friars, in 1270, 1273, and 1285, in the Archives of Marischal College.

CHAPTER II.

Affairs of Scotland after the death of Alexander III.—Sir William Wallace—Robert Bruce—Battle of Inverury—Storming of the Citadel of Aberdeen by the Citizens—Origin of BON ACCORD—Charters by King Robert Bruce—Aberdeen erected into a royal borough—Town burnt by the English—Origin of the name of NEW Aberdeen—King David II.—His Charters to the borough—Appearance of Famine—Municipal Laws—Commerce—John Barbour—Language of the place—Population—Remarkable Occurrences—Table of the Customs and Monies paid by the town to Government.

FROM A.D. 1290 TO A.D. 1398.

IN tracing the rise and progress of Aberdeen, as a royal borough, it has been our object, in the preceding chapter, to present a distinct view of its ancient political constitution; to detail the privileges and immunities which its burgesses enjoyed, in consequence of the various charters that emanated from the bounty of their sovereign; and to introduce a few detached topics, which were deemed to be of importance to the narrative. The domestic events; the political influence of the borough, as connected with the state; together with the manners and customs of the citizens, in different ages, are the objects which will now require our consideration. A.D. 1290.

Alexander III. having died, in 1286, by a fall from his horse, at Kinghorn, without leaving any male issue, and without any descendant, except Margaret of Norway, his infant grand-daughter, who did not long survive him, a controversy arose between two powerful competitors concerning the succession to the crown of Scotland. The result of that controversy, which is so famous in history, was not only disastrous to the nation, but had well nigh proved fatal to the independence of the kingdom. Edward I. of England, who was chosen umpire, having, by his definitive judgment in favour of John Baliol, placed

A.D. 1292. placed him on the throne of Scotland, and compelled the nobles to renounce the ancient liberties and independence of the country, it soon became manifest that he aimed at the absolute sovereignty and dominion of the kingdom. By the indignities which the English monarch offered to the Scottish nation, and by the arbitrary exercise of his usurped power, he exasperated the people; and, finding every thing tending to a civil war, he made preparations for the commencement of hostilities against them. He invaded Scotland with a mighty army: he subdued the south; and, in his progress northward, forced Baliol to resign the crown into his hands. Edward, having thus far accomplished the object of his views, proceeded with his army to
1296. Aberdeen, which surrendered to his arms, without opposition. Henry Cheyne, bishop of the diocese, did homage to his new sovereign; and
15th July. the citizens, following his example, made their submission, as had
19th. been done by those of other towns in the south.

1298. Though Edward had in a manner conquered the country, he had not subdued the bold and fervid spirit of the nation; but the people, being unable to struggle against the accumulated force of England, submitted with impatience to their humiliating yoke. At last, Sir William Wallace, whose exploits, heroic valour, and patriotism, have been the theme of history, appeared, as the defender of his country, and of its liberties. He inspired with national enthusiasm many of his countrymen, who crowded to his standard; and, being fortunate in his enterprises, his associates in arms conferred on him the dignity of regent of the kingdom. Having attacked, with success, the dispersed bodies of the English in the south, and stormed the castle of Dunnotter, he marched suddenly towards Aberdeen, in order to secure possession of that place. The English had, at this time, a considerable force in that district of the country, besides a numerous fleet stationed in the harbour; but, on Wallace's approach, part of the garrison shut themselves up in the citadel, and the remainder, after having set fire to the town, retreated to their ships, trusting that they would be able, by these means, to effect their escape to sea. Wallace having made an effort to take the citadel by storm, failed in the attempt, and was repulsed. In his attack on their ships he was more successful, having burnt and destroyed the greatest part of them.

After

After achieving this exploit, and putting to death some of the inhabitants for assisting the English, he retreated into Angus.* It was the fate of this renowned leader and gallant defender of the liberties of his country, some years afterwards, to be betrayed, by Sir John Menteth, into the hands of Edward, who ordered him to be carried in chains to London, where the punishment of a traitor was inflicted upon him, although he had never made submission to England. His body being quartered, one of his limbs was sent to Aberdeen, and, according to the barbarous custom of the age, fixed to public view over one of the gates of the town.† But although Wallace had thus fallen a victim to the severity of Edward, another and more fortunate defender of the liberties of his country presented himself.

A.D. 1298.

1305.

1306.

Robert Bruce, grandson of that Robert who had been one of the competitors for the crown of Scotland, appeared, to assert his own rights, and to vindicate the legitimate cause of his country. He roused the genius of the nation from its present dejection; he excited his partisans to arm; and the nobles favouring his pretensions to the throne crowded to his standard. But, although he was crowned and inaugurated at Scone, and made his authority be acknowledged in most parts of the kingdom, he had the whole power of England to oppose. At the commencement of his reign, he experienced many privations and reverses of fortune; and was, at last, forced to seek refuge, with many of his followers, in the castle of Kildrummy,‡ in the mountainous district of Aberdeenshire; but in that place he did not long remain, having been driven from his strong-holds by the superior force of his enemies. Though he was, by these means, reduced to adversity, and surrounded by dangers and difficulties, his gallant spirit was not subdued, nor did he continue long inactive. Edward I. having, in the meanwhile, died, and the exertions of his son and successor, Edward II. becoming languid, Bruce sallied from his

* Boecius Hist. lib. xiii. cap. 5. 306.—Fordun, lib. xi. cap. 29.—“Wallace Achievements, by Blind Harry,” b. vii. 1064.

† Boecius Hist. lib. xiii. cap. 5. 306.—Abercrombie, vol. i. p. 544.

‡ Barbour, Edin. edition, 1670, b. iii. line 270.

A.D. 1306. his retreat : he put himself at the head of a respectable body of his party that had assembled in the neighbourhood of Inverury, in the district of Garioch, about fifteen miles north-west of Aberdeen, and soon found a favourable opportunity of leading them to victory and to glory. At this critical moment, the citizens of Aberdeen, who had been long under the influence of the English, and subjected to the usurpations and exertions of their authorities, found means to escape from the town, and hastened in a body to offer their services to Bruce ; they seasonably joined his army at Inverury, and distinguished themselves no less by their patriotic conduct than by their bravery at that eventful crisis. The English, who retained possession of all the strong-holds in the north, collected expeditiously their scattered forces, and, under the command of John Comyn, Earl of Buchan, and John de Mowbray, one of their leaders, took up an advantageous position near the hill of Barra, not far distant from Inverury. The troops of Bruce were inferior in number to those of the enemy ; but his hopes of victory depended less on the numbers, than on the ardour and zeal of his faithful followers, and on the celerity of their motions. Trusting to valour and to fortune, he made his dispositions in person, and, animating his troops by his presence, he advanced towards the enemy : he commenced the attack, drove them from their strong position, and defeated them with great slaughter.* Bruce, having thus by his military conduct secured the victory, which in its consequences was most important to him, pursued his advantage, and wasted with fire and sword the extensive territories of Comyn, in the fertile district of Buchan.

In the meanwhile the citizens of Aberdeen, no less inflamed with resentment against the English than elated by the recent victory, hastened to the town, of which they took possession, without opposition. They attacked, with intrepidity, the citadel, which was still occupied by the enemy ; and having stormed it, put the garrison to the sword, and razed the fortifications.† The English leaders,

on

* Boecius, p. 141.—*Rotuli Scotiæ*, p. 86.—Barbour, Edin. edition, b. vi. l. 553. 760.

† Boecius *Hist. lib. xiv. fol. 312.*—Leslie, p. 231.—Fordun, *lib. xii. cap. 16.*—Boecius de Vitis *Epis. Aberdonen. f. 6.*

A.D. 1308.
May 22.

on intelligence of this disaster, collected their scattered forces, which had, since their recent defeat at Inverury, been dispersed over the country, and advanced towards Aberdeen, that they might revenge the deaths of their countrymen. On their approach, the citizens and partisans of Bruce marched from the town, under the command of John Fraser, a Scottish commander, determined to give them battle. A severe conflict having ensued, in the precincts of the town, the English were thrown into disorder, and routed, with great slaughter. The triumph of the citizens on this victory was, however, sullied by their treatment of the prisoners, whom they put to an ignominious death. The canons of the church of St. Nicholas interceded for their lives; but so violent was the spirit of national animosity towards the enemy, that the voice of religion and of humanity was disregarded: they could obtain only permission of the victorious leader and of the provost of the town to bury the bodies near the back porch of the church.*

As an honourable testimony of the patriotism and zealous services of the citizens on these momentous occasions, and to perpetuate the memory of their signal achievements at this important conjuncture, King Robert granted them his royal permission to change the ancient armorial bearings of the town, and to assume their present arms,†

E

with

* Boecius de Vitis Epis. Abred. f. 6.

† “ To all and sundry whom it effeirs.—I, Sir Charles Erskine of Cambo, Knight and Baronet, Lyon King of Arms, considering that by several Acts of Parliament, &c. I am empowered to visit the whole Arms and Bearings within this kingdom, and to distinguish them, and matriculate the same in my books and registers, and to give extracts of all Arms, expressing the blazoning thereof, under my hand and seal of office; and which register is, by the said Act, ordained to be respected as the true and unrepealable rule of all Arms and Bearings in Scotland, to remain with the Lyon's Office as a public register of the kingdom: Therefore, conform to the power given me by his sacred Majesty, and according to the tenor of the said Acts of Parliament, I testify and make known, that the Arms of old belonging to the royal burgh of Aberdeen, and now confirmed by me, are matriculated in my said public register, upon the day and date of thir presents, and are thus blazoned, viz.:—‘ The said royal burgh of Aberdene gives for Ensigns Armorial, *Gules, three Towers, triple tow'ered within a double tressure, counterflow'ed argent*, supported by two Leopards, proper; the motto in an escrol above, ‘ *Bon-Accord*,’ (the word Bon-Accord was given them by the King Robert Bruce, for killing all the English, in one night, in their town, their word being that night Bon-Accord.) And upon the reverse of the seal of the said burgh is insculped, in a field azure, a temple

A.D. 1208. with the motto "*Bon Accord*," being their watch-word on that memorable day. According to local tradition, the pious canons imposed, as a penance on the citizens, that they should repair every Sunday to the chapel dedicated to Saint Ninian, within the ramparts of the citadel, and expiate their offences by offering up their prayers for the souls of the prisoners whom they had so barbarously put to death. This religious ceremony was held in strict observance while the Roman Catholic religion prevailed in the nation.

During those transactions, Edward II. who, in compliance with the dying injunctions of his father, continued the prosecution of the war, retained possession of all the castles and strong-holds of Scotland, except that of Aberdeen; but he had neither the vigour nor the military talents of his predecessor; and his measures varied from day to day. The citadel of Aberdeen being the only strong-hold
 July 10. which he had hitherto lost, he appointed William le Betour captain of his fleet betwixt Hartlepool and Aberdeen, with special orders to proceed with succours for retaking it;* but no attempt was made for that purpose: and being baffled in all his efforts to subdue Scotland, Edward retreated into England, where he disbanded his army.

In consequence of those favourable events, King Robert not only daily gained some new accession of territory, but reconciled the minds of the nobility to his dominion; the great and decisive battle of Bannockburn, at length, fixed him on the throne of Scotland, and secured the independence of the kingdom. Nor was it in the field only that he displayed his wisdom and patriotic conduct. In his endeavours to restore his kingdom to its former grandeur and independence, he exhibited the same wise and beneficent policy in its civil administration;
 1314.
 June 24.

argent, St. Nicholas standing in the porch, mitred and vested, proper, with his dexter hand lifted up to heaven, praying over three children, in a boyling caldron of the first; and holding in the sinister a 'Crosier Or;' which Arms, above blazoned, I hereby declare to have been and to be the true and unrepeatable signs armorial of the burgh royal above-named. In testimony whereof I have subscribed this extract with my hand, and have caused append my seal of office thereto.—Given at Edinburgh, the 25th of February, and of our Sovereign Lord's reign the 26th year, 1674.

"CHARLES ARESKIN, *Lyon*."

* Rotuli Scotiæ, p. 55.

A.D. 1314.

Oct. 24.

1319.
Dec. 10.

tion; and the country gradually recovered from the effects of the devastations to which it had been so long exposed. Nor was he unmindful of the meritorious services of the burgesses and community of Aberdeen, who, as soon as tranquillity had been restored to the nation, experienced his liberality and bounty. He passed a charter,* by which he granted and confirmed to them the charge of keeping and preserving the ancient royal forest of Stocket, to be held by them, their heirs and successors, for ever; together with all the liberties and privileges that pertained to it, either by law or usage. This was a grant of considerable importance to the community in those times, when the diversion of hunting was so much the occupation of the nobility, and when the king's forests were governed by peculiar and arbitrary laws, which were considered to be a source of oppression to the people. By another charter, he also confirmed, to the burgesses and community, the privilege, which they had long enjoyed, of an annual fair in the borough, for fourteen days subsequent to Trinity Sunday.†

In a general council of the nation assembled at Berwick, he passed another charter,‡ by which he granted and confirmed, in fee farm,

E 2

to

* Robertus dei grā Rex Scottꝝ omnibꝫ probis hominibꝫ tocius fr̃e sue Salēm Sciatis nos dedisse concessisse et hac p̃senti Carta ñra confirmasse Burgenfibus ⁊ comunitati burgi ñri de Abirdeñ Curam ⁊ Custodiam tocius foreste ñre de le Stoket cum ptinenciis Tendend ⁊ habend d̃co Burgo Burgenfibus ⁊ Comunitati eiufdm ⁊ eoꝝ heredibus ⁊ fuccessoribꝫ p̃ om̃es Rectas metas suas ⁊ diuifas cū omnibꝫ Libertatibꝫ ⁊ cōmōditatibꝫ ⁊ aifiañtis ad d̃cam forestam spectantibus seu de iure vel consuetudine in futurum Spectare valentibus . faluis nobis viridi ⁊ venacione tantū . Concedimꝫ eciam eidm Burgo ñro Burgenfibus ⁊ Comunitati eiufdm . ⁊ eoꝝ heredibus et Successoribus . q̃ nullus Justiciariꝫ forestaꝝ ñraꝝ nec aliquis alius Regni ñri cuiuscūq̃ condicōnis sūit siue status se int̃mittat . seu cognizionem h̃eat sup defectibus d̃ce foreste ñre p̃ psonam ñram ⁊ Camariū ñrm qui p̃ t̃pe fuit firmiꝫ inhibentes ne quis cont̃ hanc concessionem ñram ip̃os Burgenfes ṽl Comunitatem h̃edes suos ut fuccessores vexare p̃sumat iniuste sup ñram plenariam forissfacturam . In cuiꝫ Rei testiōm p̃senti Carte ñre sigillm ñrm p̃cepimꝫ apponi . Testibus Edwardo de Bruis Comite de Carrik ⁊ Dño Galwidie fratre ñro . David Comite Atholie Constabulario ñro Scocie Thoma Ranulphi Comite Moraue nepote ñro . Johne de Meneteth . Gilbto de Haia . Alexo de Meyners ⁊ Robto de Keth Marefcallo ñro Scocie Militibꝫ . Apud Dundee vicefimo quarto die Octob̃r . Anno Regni ñri Octauo.

(The seal, in white wax, remains entire.)

† Charter entitled, “Quasimodo genitꝫ de nūdinis”—in the archives of the borough.

‡ Robertus dei gracia Rex Scottꝝ Omnibꝫ probis hominibꝫ tocius terre sue Salēm : Sciatis

A.D. 1319. to his burgesses and to the community of Aberdeen, and to their heirs and successors, the borough and the royal forest of Stoket, with the pertinents, to be held by them in perpetuity, of his Majesty and his royal successors, in *free burgage*, with the mills, river fishings, customs, tolls, courts, weights, and measures, and all other liberties and commodities, for payment of an yearly rent of L.213 6s. 8d.
Scottish

Nos de confilio ⁊ ordinacōe pboꝝ Regni noſtꝝ cōceſſiſſe ⁊ ad feodoſirmā aſſedaſſe . ac pſenti carta nꝛa confirmāſſe burgenſibꝫ nꝛis ⁊ cōitati burgi nꝛi de Abdene burgū nꝛm de Abdene pꝛdēm ⁊ floreſtam nꝛam del Stoket cū ptinēciis Tenend ⁊ habend pꝛdēis burgensꝫ ⁊ cōitati eoꝝ heredibꝫ ⁊ ſucceſſoribꝫ in ppetuū . de nob ⁊ heredibꝫ nꝛis in ſfeodo ⁊ hereditate ⁊ in libo burgagꝫ . p omēs rectas metas ⁊ diuiſas ſuas . cū Molēdinis . Aquis . piſcariis . Minuī Cuſtumis . Tolloneis . Curiis . ponderibꝫ menſurꝫ . ⁊ cū omibꝫ aliis Liſtatibꝫ . Cōmoditatibꝫ . Aꝝſiamētis Conſuetudibꝫ ⁊ iuſtis ptinēciis ſuis ad Aſſedaçōem dcoꝝ burgꝫ ⁊ floreſte . de iure ⁊ cōſuetudie ſpꝛtantibꝫ . vel ſpꝛtare valentibꝫ in futurꝫ . Reddendo inde nob annuatꝫ . vt heredibꝫ nꝛis . dci burgū . eoꝝ hedes ⁊ ſucceſſorꝫ vt ſꝛdēm eſt . Duectas ⁊ Treſdecē libꝫs . ſex ſolid ⁊ octo denarꝫ ſſlingꝫ tantꝫ . in Caſſam nꝛam ad duos anni tꝛios . videtꝫ cōdietetē ad ſſeſtꝫ Penth ⁊ aliā cōdietetꝫ ad ſſeſtꝫ Sꝛi Martini ī hꝫeme . p omi alio ſeruicō . exaccōe . cōſuetudie . ſeu demand . Volumꝫ eciā ⁊ pcedimꝫ qꝫ dci burgū nꝛi hed ⁊ ſucceſſorꝫ eoꝝd libe ⁊ ſine impedimēto cꝫcūqꝫ in Campis Moris ⁊ aliis qꝫbꝫcūqꝫ Locis dce floreſte exꝫ boſcū del Stoket pꝛdco burgꝫ de Abdene pꝫx adiacentē . poſſint oīodam culturā faceꝫ cꝫanſiones ⁊ edificia pſtere . ſſocal ſodeꝫ . ac alias qꝫcūqꝫ pmoditatꝫ exꝫcere . pſiceꝫ ⁊ ordinare put meliꝫ viderint expedire . Saluo tantꝫ nob ⁊ hedibꝫ nꝛis virid gꝫſſary arboꝝ in pꝛdco boſco et venacōe ſimitꝫ ſi in ead floreſta caſnalꝫ inueiatꝫ . Conceſſimꝫ eciā eid burgo nꝛo . burgū ⁊ Cōitati eiꝫd hedꝫ ⁊ ſſucceſſoribꝫ ſuis . qꝫ nꝛꝫ Juſticiariꝫ floreſtꝫ vt aliqꝫs aliꝫ Regni nꝛi cuiꝫcūqꝫ pꝫdcois fuerit ſiue ſtatꝫ ſup Cuſtodia pſentꝫ Conceſſionis ⁊ infeodaçōis nꝛe . vel ſup defectibꝫ eiꝫd ſe aliqꝫlitꝫ intꝫmittant aut pꝫcōem habeant . niſi tantꝫ Caſſaꝫ nꝛ qꝫ p tꝫpe ſiūt . Ita tamꝫ qꝫ qꝫcūqꝫ ſꝫ huiꝫmōi defectibꝫ aut ſꝫ deſtꝫcōe . Virid aut Venacōis in dca floreſta Legalitꝫ pꝫictꝫ ſiūt . penā huiꝫmōi Criminis ſꝫportet ī ppꝫa pſona ⁊ nꝛis aliꝫ Principali tamꝫ pꝫeſſione ⁊ infeodaçōe nꝛa in ſuo Robore ſꝫmilꝫ ⁊ ppetuo pmanente . In cuiꝫ Rei Teſtimoniū pſentibꝫ ſigillu nꝛm pꝫcepimꝫ apponi Teſtibꝫ Wiſſmo ⁊ Wiſſmo Sꝫi Andr ⁊ Donkeld Epiſ . Bernardo Abbe de Abbrothocꝫ ⁊ Cancellaꝫ nꝛo Thm Ranulph Comitꝫ Morauꝫ ⁊ Dño Valt Anand ⁊ Cꝫauū . Reſto de Keth Warſcaſt nꝛo . Gilbto de Haꝫa Conſꝫ nꝛo . Alexandro ſſrasꝫ Caſſaꝫ nꝛo Militibꝫ : Apud Berwꝫc ſꝫ Twed . Decio die Decembꝫ Anno Regni nꝛi . Quarto decimo .

(The seal is torn away.)

The other charters granted by King Robert to the burgesses and community of Aberdeen were as follows :—

A charter of the assize of ale, and of red and white fish ; dated 25th September, and 18th year of his reign.—Another, dated in Carrick, in the 23d year of his reign, granting and confirming all their ancient rights, privileges, and customs; with power of taking, imprisoning, and punishing every person repairing to the town, armed against the King's statute.—The sixth and last charter, which is almost in the same terms, is dated in Galloway, 10th March, 1328-9.

Scottish money. By that parliamentary grant, King Robert not only confirmed to the burgesses and community, as a corporation, his ROYAL BOROUGH OF ABERDEEN, for payment of a permanent rent to the crown ; but annexed to it, for the support of its political dignity, more ample possessions* than those enjoyed by any other royal borough in the kingdom. At the same time, the magistrates, who were the king's baillies or stewards, for collecting the fluctuating and uncertain *mails* or farms payable by the individual burgesses, for which they were accountable to the Great Chamberlain, were, by this fee farm grant, relieved from a vexatious responsibility : they had now a fixed and permanent rent only to account for in exchequer ; and were allowed to appropriate the surplus of those *mails*, if there was any, to the common good of the town.

The borough, as a corporation now holding *in capite* of the crown, may be viewed as forming an integral part of the Scottish constitution, being entitled by its representatives to a voice in the national council : nor is it unreasonable to presume that it was admitted, as well as other royal boroughs, into the parliament which King Robert summoned at Cambuskenneth, in the year 1326,† when the earls, barons, burgesses, and freeholders voted to him, during his life, a tenth penny from their rents and revenues, according to the old extent, in the time of Alexander III.

The death of this monarch, who had raised Scotland from the lowest dejection to the highest pitch of glory, happening at this period, was an irreparable loss to the nation. He left David II. his only son and successor, a minor, under the guardianship of Randolph, Earl of Moray, the companion of all his victories ; but although the young king, and his consort, Johanna of England, were crowned and inaugurated at Scone, the national disorders that ensued rendered it necessary for them to retire to France, where they remained for several years.

1329.
June 7.

1331.
Nov. 24.

The

* The revenue, in modern times, of the lands, river fishings, and other property, annexed to the borough by King Robert, cannot be estimated at less than L.18,000 sterling annually to those who are now in possession of them.

† Wight's Treatise on Elections, p. 22.

A.D. 1332.

Sept. 24.

1334.

The minority of David was soon disturbed by Edward Baliol, who, relying on the aid of England, and on the support of some disaffected barons among the Scots, set up his pretensions to the crown of Scotland, and invaded the kingdom. Success having at first attended his arms, he took possession of the throne, and was crowned at Scone. In the meanwhile, Edward III. of England, notwithstanding he had been constrained to acknowledge the independence of Scotland by a solemn deed,* which had received the sanction of his parliament, secretly encouraged Baliol in his enterprise, and gave countenance to the nobles who were disposed to join him. By these means, he embroiled the nation in a war; and, having raised a mighty army, invaded the kingdom, both by sea and land. He formed a junction with Baliol at Perth, and overrun the country, by way of Athol, as far as Inverness, without opposition.

1336.

While Edward was in possession of the north, Sir Thomas Roscelyn, an English leader, landed at Dunnotter† a body of troops, and advanced northward, in order that he might occupy Aberdeen. The citizens, who continued zealously devoted to the cause of their legitimate sovereign, on intelligence of their approach, determined to oppose them; they sallied out in a body, and with more impetuosity, perhaps, than good conduct, commenced the attack in the Green, or suburbs of the town, where a severe action ensued. Roscelyn, the English commander, was mortally wounded; but the citizens being thrown into disorder, were routed, with great loss, and fled into the town. The victors entered it along with the vanquished, and a furious massacre commenced. The inhabitants, seized with terror and consternation, abandoned the place, and fled in every direction; the enemy having pursued, put many of them to death, without distinction, and then pillaged and set fire to the town, which continued burning for six days, and was reduced to ashes. Nor did the hostile invaders spare the habitations of the bishop and the canons

* A correct copy of this deed, supposed to have been written in the beginning of the fifteenth century, is preserved in the chartulary of Saint Nicholas church, fol. 1.

† Rotuli Scotiæ, p. 411. 416.

nons of the church, at Kirktown of Seaton, in the neighbourhood, the whole having experienced a similar destruction.* At no former period had so grievous a calamity befallen the town; nor did it recover from the effects of this disaster till after the English had been expelled from the country, and the Scottish monarch had returned to his dominions, and resumed the reins of government.

A.D. 1286.

David, soon after his return to the kingdom, summoned a general council of the nation in Aberdeen, and, with the sanction of that parliament, passed a charter,† by which he confirmed to the burgesses and community the whole liberties, customs, and rights, that they had enjoyed from his royal predecessors. Nor did he neglect to promote the interests of the citizens, but encouraged them to prosecute commerce and useful arts. On frequent occasions, during the remainder of his reign, he made the town the royal residence, and assisted them

1342.
Feb. 21.

with

* Wyntoun, b. viii. cap. 30. 133. cap. 38. 76. Boecius de Vit. Epis. Abred. fol. 7.

There were, at this time, ten ships in the harbour, with cargoes on board; but they fortunately got to sea, and escaped from the enemy.—[*Chamberlain's Accounts*, vol. i. p. 235.] In the course of improving the old streets, and in digging the foundations of houses rebuilt, vestiges of this destruction, as well as of ancient streets, have been observed. Some years ago, in forming Saint Nicholas Street, considerable quantities of oak timber, which had, at some time, been in a state of ignition, were found; also several earthen jars, containing a considerable quantity of silver coins of King William, Alexander III. and Edward I. supposed to have been the deposits of some religious house

† David dei grā Rex Scottorū . Omībz probis hōibz tocius tre sue salīm . Sciatis nos concessisse ⁊ ex deliberato consilio nro hac p̄senti carta nra confirmasse burgenlibz nris de Abirdene fidelibz nris ⁊ comunitati burgi nri p̄dci omēs libtates consuetudines ⁊ iura de quibz p̄ p̄deceffores nros Reges Scocie quoscunq̄ infeodati fuerunt ⁊ quibz iuste ⁊ sedm leges burgoꝝ vsi sunt oppressione siue subuersione libtatū suaz quas p̄ guerram nram in absencia nra hucusq̄ passī sunt non obstante ⁊ licet dci burgenfes nri ⁊ comunitas ad instanciam nram vel ex pmissiōe contra libtates ⁊ iura sua eis ⁊ Regibz Scocie p̄decefforibz nris concessa dampna ⁊ iniurias de facto sint p̄peffi . Volum⁹ tamen q̄ libtates sue consuetudines ⁊ iura sua sibi ⁊ successoribz suis de cetero integra pmaneat ⁊ illesa . Quare firmit̄ phibem⁹ ne quis contra hanc concessiōem nram ip̄os vexare grauare seu inquietare p̄sumat sup nram plenariam forisfacturam . In cui⁹ rei testimoniū p̄senti carte nre sigillum nrm p̄cepim⁹ apponi . Testib⁹ Robto Senescallo Scocie Nepote nro Duncano Comite de ffyff Patricio de Dunbarr Comite Archie Robto de Keth Marefcallo nro Scocie Malcolmmo fflemyngr ⁊ Thoma de Carnoto Cancellario nro Wilitibz in pleno consilio nro tento . Apud Abirdene vicesimo primo die ffebruari . Anno regni nri Tercio decimo .

(The seal is torn away.)

A.D. 1342. with the means of enabling them to rebuild it, in a more substantial manner than formerly. Accordingly we find, that, at this time, the streets were improved, and many of the houses rebuilt of stone in place of wood, of which they were, in ancient times, mostly composed. David also instituted, in the same place where King William had formerly his exchequer, a mint, from which there was issued specie, that tended to facilitate commerce, and to promote traffic within the town. The coinage was groat pieces of silver,* many specimens of which have been preserved by the curious. From these circumstances, the memory of which was long preserved by local tradition, the town henceforward became distinguished by the name of NEW ABERDEEN.†

1356.

The inclemency of the season having, at this time, affected the harvests of Scotland, there was consequently an unusual scarcity of corn, which gradually produced the appearance of famine in the town. William de Leth, the provost, was therefore deputed to repair to

* Antico Lat. + DAVID: DEI: GRA: REX: SCOTORVM, Caput Regis coronatum cum sceptro, rosæ inclusæ.

Postico Lat. + DNS: PTECTOR MEI. LIBATOR MS. interius VILLA ABERDON. CRUX magna totum nummum pertransiens cum 4. calcaribus quinque aculeorum.

† The question, whether the present royal borough of Aberdeen, or the city commonly called Old Aberdeen, is the ancient town of Aberdon, has often been agitated and disputed, with great zeal, by antiquaries; but we trust we have already evinced, by positive evidence, that the former was the ancient town of Aberdon.—1st. By the original charters to its burgesses by King William, and by the Chamberlain's Accounts of Scotland, in which it is distinguished by that name. 2d. By its public streets, which were known by particular names in the time of Alexander I. long before the translation of the episcopal see from Mortlach to Aberdeen. 3d. By many religious houses being established in the place, at a period when Kirktown of Seaton, where the city of Aberdeen, or what is commonly called Old Aberdeen, was originally founded, had scarcely any buildings in it, except a small church. 4th. By the ancient church, citadel, mint-house, and coinage of the town. At the time when Aberdeen was burnt by the English, there was no cathedral in existence at Kirktown of Seaton, and few buildings, except the bishop's palace, and the lodgings of the canons of the diocese; and these were distinguished by the title of the *Chanonry of Aberdeen*. The building of the cathedral was commenced only in the time of Bishop Alexander Kyninmunde, who was elected to the see in 1357. The university of King's College was instituted in 1494; and the village of Kirktown of Seaton, with the Chanonry and College, were erected into a borough of barony by James IV. only in the year 1498: but the royal borough of Aberdeen, which was always a separate, distinct, and independent town, never had the least connexion with its civil jurisdiction or political authority.

to England, in order to procure a supply of corn for the use of the inhabitants. As a protection to him in that country, he obtained from King Edward letters of permission to purchase, in any part of his kingdom, two hundred quarters of wheat, four hundred quarters of barley and malt, two hundred quarters of beans and pease, and also ten casks of wine; and to export these articles from the port of Barton on the Humber, or of Hedon in Yorkshire.* This seasonable supply, perhaps, relieved the distresses of the inhabitants on that occasion. A.D. 1356.

A parliament having, at this time, been summoned to meet at Edinburgh, in order to concert measures for the ransom of King David, who, since the disastrous battle of Nevil's Cross, 17th October, 1346, had been a captive in England, Aberdeen appeared, by its representatives, among the other royal boroughs, and ranked third in the roll. The treaty being concluded for his ransom at L.100,000 sterling, to be paid at the rate of 10,000 merks yearly, the town, along with Edinburgh, Perth, and Dundee, acceded to it by their commissioners;† and bound their burgesses, and all the merchants and burgesses of Scotland, for payment of the money to the King of England. 1357.
26th Sept.

Having formerly had occasion to notice the political constitution of the borough under the ancient regimen, with the administration of its civil government, we shall now advert to its condition during the present period. By the charter which King Robert Bruce, with the sanction of his parliament, passed, in favour of the burgesses and community, as a corporation, he introduced an improvement, by converting those temporary assedations, which were in use to be granted to the magistrates by the Great Chamberlain, of the uncertain and fluctuating maills and farms payable by the burgesses, into a perpetual fee farm grant. The original and fundamental tenure of the burgesses was not, however, altered; nor was any change effected but the incidental, though very beneficial one, of superad-
ding

F

* Rotuli Scotiæ, p. 802.

† The commissioners for the town were Laurence de Garvock, William de Leth, and John Crab.
—[*Rymer's Fæd.* vol. vi. p. 44. 59.]

A.D. 1357. ding that fee farm grant of their own mails to the common good of the town. Hence those lands, fishings, and other possessions granted by the king, have always been regarded as the ancient patrimony of the borough, and a part of its common good. The same number of magistrates as under the ancient regimen, along with a common council, was continued, and the burgesses enjoyed the privilege of choosing them annually, as heretofore. On the anniversary day of election, in the year 1394, being the Monday after Michaelmas, a body of laws* was instituted in the guild court, under the common seal, for the better government of the magistrates in their elections, and for other municipal purposes. These laws, which were long held in strict observance, we find again sanctioned and confirmed, by an act of a head court of the community, in the year 1436.†

At the commencement of the reign of Robert Bruce, commerce and manufactures, which, owing to the confusions of the country and the disorders of war, had met with many severe checks, were at a very low ebb; but towards the close of his reign, when the nation enjoyed tranquillity, they seem to have been in a progressive state of improvement. At that time, we find Aberdeen had its full share of the small traffic that was carried on by the boroughs, and made considerable returns to government from the customs of the port. During the reign of David II. the commerce of the town appears to have gradually increased; but towards the close of the century it declined. Salmon and wool‡ still continued to be the basis of its foreign

* *Municipal Laws, established in 1394.*—1st, That no alderman, baillie, or any office-bearer, shall remain in office beyond one year. 2d, The alderman's accounts to be given in forty days after his going out of office, and the balance to be paid without delay. 3d, He is to enjoy no office, till the accounts be rendered, and the balance paid. 4th, No sum above L.1 to be spent, without the consent of a majority of the council. 5th, The baillies only to meddle with the town's rents. 6th, Commissioners to parliament to be chosen by the whole council. 7th, Tenants of the town's lands, fishings, and mills, to pay their rents when due.—To these were added, Regulations for fleshers, dealers in victual, and for the public markets.

† Council Register, vol. iv. 73.

‡ A considerable portion of David's ransom was remitted to England, in wool, the produce of the county of Aberdeen.—[*Chamberlain's Accounts*, vol. i. p. 299, 300.]

foreign trade with England,* and with Flanders, Brabant, Hamburg, and other parts of the continent. Its imports were chiefly cloths, wine, oils, salt, dye-stuffs, and other articles, adapted to domestic purposes; and, on some occasions, arms, wheat, barley, malt, and pease. A.D. 1357.

While animosities subsisted between the two British nations, Edward III. had, by his influence with the Earl of Flanders, been the means of interrupting commercial intercourse between the Flemings and the Scottish merchants, who were expressly excluded from the ports of his territories. This impolitic measure, which was contrary to treaties subsisting between the two states, and to the mutual amity which had been long maintained by their subjects, necessarily obliged the Scottish nation to retaliate on the Flemings. In a parliament, or general council, assembled at Dundee, 12th November, 1348, an act† was passed, approving and confirming the establishment of the staple of the Scottish merchants at Middleburgh, in Zealand, according to an agreement which had been made between them and the merchants of that place. In consequence of that statute, a proclamation‡ was issued, on the same day, prohibiting the merchants

F 2

of

* Rotuli Scotiæ, p. 716. 802. 859. 869. 880.

† David dei gr̃a Rex Scottoz Vniūsis ad quoz noticiam p̃sentes tre pueh̃nt . Salū in dño Sempit̃nam . Quia p̃ consiliū ñm tentū apud dunde . duodec̃io die Nouembr̃ anno dñi M̃illio CCC^{mo} quad̃ges̃io Sept̃io concord̃is extitit delibatū q̃ burgeñses ⁊ m̃catores Regni ñri stapulam m̃candisat̃ h̃eant ⁊ maiorem apud Wyddylburgh̃ in Selandia put burgeñses ⁊ m̃catores Regni ñri ex pte vna ⁊ burgeñses ⁊ m̃catores de Wyddylburgh̃ ex al̃a . causa negociandi melius possunt vnanim̃s concordare quam quidm̃ cōcordiam siue contractū inl̃ burgeñses ⁊ m̃catores regni ñri ac burgeñses ⁊ m̃catores de Wyddylburgh̃ p̃d̃cos . faciend̃ componend̃ siue valland̃ in om̃ibz ratam h̃re volum⁹ ⁊ firmam . Et d̃cam cōcordiam siue cōtractū in om̃ibz ut p̃m̃tis approbam⁹ ratificam⁹ ⁊ p̃ nobis ⁊ ñris confirmam⁹ . Et hoc om̃is quoz inest notū facim⁹ p̃ p̃sentes . Quapp̃l om̃ibz ⁊ singtis M̃inistris ac fidelibz ñris p̃cipim⁹ ⁊ mandam⁹ ne cont̃ delibacōnem d̃ci consilii ñri venire p̃sumat sub pena que cōpetit̃ in hac pte . In cui⁹ Rei testimoniũ has l̃ras ñras p̃ vnū ānū integrū a festo Pasche p̃x futuro duraturas fieri fecimus patentes . Apud Dunde xii die Nouembr̃ anno regni nostri dec̃io nono

(The seal, in white wax, remains entire.)

‡ David dei gr̃a Rex Sottoz Camario ñro Scoce vicecōitibz . p̃pōitis ⁊ eoz battis celsiq̃ ministris ñris ad quos p̃sentes l̃re pueh̃nt Salū Quia manifestū fuit consilio ñro tento apud Dunde xii die Nouembr̃ q̃ m̃catores regni ñri ⁊ eoz s̃uientes ñon ⁊ om̃es ⁊ singli de Regno

A.D. 1357. of Flanders, and all Flemings, from resorting to Scotland, in the way of commercial intercourse, under the pain of confiscation of their goods, and of banishment; but from this proscription mariners alone were excepted. Both of these public acts, under the great seal, are preserved in the archives of Aberdeen.

David, as an additional encouragement to merchants to prosecute commerce, and to rouse them to industry, passed a charter,* on the 28th of March, 1363, in favour of the burgesses of Scotland, by which he prohibited the bishops, the priors, and other ecclesiastics, also every earl and baron, from carrying on trade in wool, skins, hides, or other merchandize; and all merchant-strangers from trading, unless with merchants of their respective royal boroughs.

In this age there were few men eminent for learning, and those who were distinguished for their acquirements in literature were mostly to be found among the orders of the clergy. Whatever relates to those who have left to posterity a lasting legacy by literary productions, that make us acquainted with the customs and manners of former times, naturally becomes a favourite object of enquiry. Curiosity is excited, and the admirer of such works is eager to know the author's progress and pursuits in life, and his gradual attainments. Among the earliest of our countrymen who have distinguished themselves by their literary acquirements was John Barbery the metrical historian, archdeacon of Aberdeen, who was born in this place

nro cuiuscūq; cōdiçōis aut status cū omībz bonis suis ꝛ mcandifis de ptibz fflandrie a cōmunione flamyngol exulati sunt ꝛ banniti cuiꝝ tañ baniçōis penitꝝ ignoramꝝ . vnde mcatores fflandrie ꝛ omēs flamyngos cuiuscūq; condiçōis aut status nautis dūtaxat exceptis a vifitaçōe ꝛ cōmunione Regni nri penitus exulamꝝ . Ita q; vbicūq; infꝛ Regnū nrm a notificaçōe pfenciū lraꝝ aliquis flamyngus poſit inueniri tanqꝛ banitus ꝛ exulatus captiuete ꝛ omia bona sua ꝛ mcandife ad opus nrm cōſciantꝝ tam diu videlꝝ q; arreſta mcatoꝝ Regni nri nup ſcā in fflandria ſteſit nō remota . Vobis mandamꝝ ꝛ ꝑcipimꝝ qꝛtenꝝ tenorē ꝑſentis lre nre vt ꝑm'itꝝ in omībz conſuetis . Datꝝ in conſilio nro tento ꝑdco die Apud Dundee . anno regni noſtri decio nono

(The seal, in white wax, remains entire.)

* An exemplification of this charter is preserved in the archives of the town, and bears date 24th of May, 1605.

place about the year 1330, and, according to our information, was the son of Andrew Barbour a citizen, and proprietor of a tenement in the Castlegate. Barbour, who was endowed with industry and capacity, having received a competent education, perhaps at a grammar school of one of the monasteries of the place, entered into holy orders, and was, at an early age, promoted by King David to the arch-deaconry of Aberdeen, about the year 1356. His qualifications having recommended him to other public employments, he was chosen one of the three commissioners appointed by the bishop of that diocese to attend the parliament summoned in Edinburgh, in 1357, to concert measures for the ransom of the Scottish monarch. In the same year, he travelled into England, accompanied by three other students, under a protection from Edward,* which, in order that he might prosecute his studies at Oxford, had been procured for him at the request of King David. He remained there for some time, performing his scholastic exercises; and afterwards occasionally attended that ancient seat of learning, adding to the stock of knowledge which he had already acquired. In 1365 and 1368, he travelled into France, and, according to the custom of the age, studied for some time at the schools of Paris.† It was soon after his last return from that place that he completed his celebrated poem, containing the details of the achievements of the illustrious Robert Bruce, and of his faithful companions in arms, Randolph, Earl of Moray, and Sir James Douglas. David not only patronized him, but, as an inducement to prosecute that work, and for his literary merit, granted him during life a pension of L.10 from the customs of Aberdeen. Robert II. also granted him an additional annuity of L.1, in perpetuity, payable from the fee farms of the borough, with the power of disposing of it in mortmain after his death. He accordingly bestowed it on the canons of the cathedral of Aberdeen, for celebrating a mass of requiem on the anniversary of his death, as was customary in that age.‡ Barbour was, for some time, comptroller of the household to David; and died about the year 1396.§ He was not

* Rotuli Scotiæ, p. 808.

† Ibid. 926.

‡ Chamberlain's Accounts, vol. ii. p. 128. 153. 402.

§ Cartulary of Aberdeen, f. 115.

A.D. 1396. not only distinguished by his extensive knowledge in the philosophy and divinity of the times, but justly celebrated for his refined genius as a poet, in his metrical history of Bruce, which has not yet lost its reputation. The style of his composition is regarded, by the learned of both kingdoms, as an ornament to our language, and not inferior to that of his contemporary, Chaucer.*

During this age, the vernacular language of the people of Aberdeen was neither the Celtic or Gaelic that continued to be spoken in the mountainous district of the county, nor derived from it; but would seem to have been a dialect of the Saxon, with an intermixture of British, Danish, and French,† gradually introduced by the numerous

* Dr. Warton's History of Ancient Poets, vol. i. p. 318.—Monthly Review, February, 1788.

† The following is a transcript of a Contract, in the year 1399, betwixt the Community and John Lambynton, &c. in the common language of the place:—

“Yis is ye Cunand made betwex ye Comownys of Aȝden on ye ta pt and Ion Lambynton & Crawford Mason on ye toy² pt yat is to say yat the forsaid Masonys sale hew to ye forsaid Comownys xii durris & xii wyndowys in fre taily & sal delyvir frely yaȝ at our key of Aȝden, or ellis at ye sandis at Laurenȝ of Lethis hows and yat work sall be sufficiand & gude but frethyng borch ilk ane for aȝ.”—[*Council Register*, vol. i. 81.]

The transcript of an Epistle from the Magistrates, in A.D. 1401:—“Reſſence & honor likt yhu to wit yat ye lord of Keth arestit yhur wyn & yhur oxin & for gude causis as he lete us wit & for yhur saks we made hȝ request yat he suld frely delyvȝ yaȝ for ye quilk request he has delyvȝit yaȝ frely at yis tȝ for we ar yaȝ at wald at gud acord war betwex yhu & hym & wull do our besynes to bryng it yar to at our power at ye quilk acord he sayis he wald be gladly & sal nocht leve ī his defaute. Qwarfor der lord it is our consale & we requir yhu yat for eff of ye contȝ and quiet of our place yhe wald asith gif yhe ocht aw hym sa yat hym nedit nocht ī tyme to cū til mak sic pundyng & nāly ī our town for he says it is previt dete yat ye aw hym & of lang tyme bygane & gif yho will adress yhu to be at ony day with hym for ye knowlage of ye forȝ thyngs send us word & we sal late hȝ wit & gif it laugt ansuer we sal ger send it yhu for we ar richt mykil haldyn to yhu & als til hym. God kepe yhur estate as we desir.”—[*Council Register*, vol. i. 216.]

List of Goods appraised and delivered over to the Chamberlain, for fines imposed by him, in 1400:—Joh̃ fit Jacobi, Bricius Dūccani, Gilbtus Hervy, Patricius Baxȝ, Michael de Caſſa, Alan⁹ Riȝ. In ȝimis a Johe Sprout, a fethir bede & a bolstir, iiij s—It^o a barrell of porpas, xs—It^o half a net, xl d—It^o a lade sadil, xxxiij d—It^o fra Thom of Marr a lede, xxs—It^o fra Davy Tamson a sadil & ij schete of net, iiij s iiij d—It^o fra Thom of Paxton a cofir, iis—It^o fra Syȝn Bayard a p of crelis, xvij d—It^o a cart sadil & jc pets, viij d—It^o fra Rob. Dūccanson xx akyn treys, xxiis iiij d—It^o fra Willā Glenyson viij vln̄ of grene clath & blew, xii s vi d—It^o fra Wiȝ of Foty a basyn & a lawar, xxvii d—It^o ab Andr. Baxȝ p accōne Ric^o fichet a brasyn pot vs v d summa, iiij ti iii s—[*Council Register*, vol. i. 150.]

merous strangers from different countries that had settled in the town since the time of David I. as formerly noticed. This continued to be the prevailing language in subsequent ages; although, by intercourse with England, and other countries, various changes in the dialect had taken place. The Celtic, which, in former ages, was in use to be spoken in many parts of the county, is now to be heard in the mountains only; and there indeed it is almost obliterated. A.D. 1396.

The population of the town, at the close of the fourteenth century, may be calculated from the number of the inhabitants liable in public assessments. At the commencement of the subsequent century, we find 344 persons in the roll* of inhabitants liable for those assessments; and these being heads of families, we may be allowed to add one third more for those who were perhaps unable, from various circumstances, to contribute any taxes. Thus we may reckon the whole families in the town to have been, at that time, 458; and if we allow six and a half persons in each family, the population may be estimated at 2977, or probably 3000, of all ages.

Among the remarkable occurrences that happened in the town during this period, may be mentioned the assassination of Sir David Berkley, who was murdered by John St. Michael, and his accomplices, on Shrove Tuesday, in the year 1350, at the instigation of the Knight of Liddesdale, to revenge the death of Sir John Douglas, whom Berkley had slain.†

King David's sister, Matilda de Bruce, who had been married to Thomas Ysaac, clerk and burgess of Aberdeen, and whose residence had been for many years in the town, died about the year 1353, her body being carried to Dunfermline, for sepulture in the abbey church of that place. About the same time, Christina Bruce, sister of King Robert Bruce, and the widow of Sir Andrew Murray of Bothwell, some time regent of the kingdom, also died in the town, where she had resided for several years. This lady was greatly celebrated for her benevolence and liberality, and for her pious donations to Saint Nicholas church.‡

In

* Council Register, vol. ii. p 26.

† Fordun, vol. xiv. 7.

‡ Cartulary, f. 5.

A.D. 1396.

In the reign of Robert III. the coinage issued from the mint of Aberdeen was groat pieces of silver, similar to those coined in the reign of David II. having on the obverse side the impression *Villa de Aberd.* At this period, many provincial towns, both in England and Scotland, had their established mints for coinage, on account of their respective sovereigns. The learned Ruddiman, who had investigated Scottish antiquities with considerable ability and great accuracy, did not carry the origin of coinage in Scotland beyond the time of Alexander I. who commenced his reign in the year 1107; at least he has stated, that no coins of any king of Scotland had been discovered, of a prior date. In the year 1355, the English and Scottish pounds were of the same weight and purity. They contained about three times the quantity of our present pound sterling; and, prior to the reign of Robert Bruce, thirty-six times that of our pound Scots. After his time, silver bullion gradually declined in value till the middle of the eighteenth century, when a pound of silver was equal to L.37 4s. of Scottish money. Gold coin was not struck in Scotland until the reign of Robert II.; and both species of coin were executed in the same manner as in England.*

We shall now present a table of the monies contributed by the town, and by Edinburgh and Perth, towards the exigencies of government, during the fourteenth century, extracted from the Chamberlain's Accounts of Scotland. We shall also, according to the manner of Ruddiman, note, in one column, the nominal sums paid by Aberdeen, and distinguish, in an opposite column, the sum to which a correspondent quantity of bullion would extend, in modern Scottish money, in the twelfth year of the reign of George II. We have here to remark, to those who may be unacquainted with the value of modern Scottish money, that it is exactly one twelfth part of a similar sum in sterling money of the present time; or that it requires twelve times the number of pounds, shillings, and pence, of the former, to make the like sums in the latter.

* Preface to Anderson's *Diplomata*, p. 58. 64. 80.

TABLE OF THE CUSTOMS AND MONIES PAID BY ABERDEEN TO GOVERNMENT, FROM 1328 TO 1399.

Comptⁱ dñi Robti de Peblis Camer^r Scoeie Redd apd Sco^rn, vicesimo sexto die Junij. Anno gr̃e. M.^o CCC. vicesimo octavo de Receptis suis a decimo octavo die Marcij. anno gr̃e 7^o vicesimo septio usq^e in diem p̃sentes Compoti.

		Aberdeen.			Edinburgh.	Perth.
		Ancient.	Modern.	Ancient.	Ancient.	Ancient.
C. IV.						
1328	Idm̃ oñat se de p̃põitis de Abirden	...	L.1261 0 8 ³	L.36 19 8	L.64 0 0	
	... de Custuarijs					
1329	... de p̃põitis burgi de Abirden	12 14 0	435 8 8	9 4 8		
	... de Custumair burgi de Abirden	844 19 9	28971 2 5	399 0 5		88 1 3
	... de Custumair burgi de Abirden	111 15 10	3832 16 7 ¹ / ₂	57 6 1		14 19 1
C. XIII.	Com̃p Dñi Maleolmi Fleming señ domus Dñi Reg ^o Red- ditū apud Newbotith̃. xvj die Januair. Anno gr̃e Miho. Triscent ^o , vicesimo nono. De recept ⁱ suis in dēa domo, a vices ^o septio die Feb ^r ṽtio p̃ito usq ^e in decimū diem Januair ultio p̃it ⁱ ipo die incluso					
1329	Idm̃ oñat se de p̃põitis burgi de Abirden	...	60 0 0	2057 3 3		20 0 0
	... de Custuair de Abirden	...	50 0 0	1714 6 0		
C. XVII.	Com̃p Reginaldi More Camer. Scoe ⁱ Reddit. apud Clac- manane vicesimo die Junij. Anno gr̃e Miho CCCmo. T ^o vicesimo. De receptis suis a nono die Decemb. Anno gr̃e CCCmo. vicesimo nono usq ^e in diem p̃sents compoti					
1330	Idm̃ oñat se de p̃põitis de Abirden	...	102 0 0	3497 3 6	18 19 7 ¹ / ₂	15 13 11
	... de Custuair de Abirden	...	55 10 7	1903 18 0	87 0 0	15 1 8
C. XXIII.	... p oblig ^e p̃põitoz de Abcei	...	6 10 0	222 17 10 ¹ / ₂		
1330	... de p̃põitis de Abd	...	61 10 0	2108 11 10 ¹ / ₂	10 10 4	
March 14.	... de Custumair de Abdon	...	454 3 4	15571 6 7 ¹ / ₂	268 17 9	100 0 0
	... de pua Custua ibidm̃	...	0 3 8	6 3 5 ¹ / ₂	0 4 6	
C. XXIV.	Comptum Reginaldi More Cam̃ Scoe. Redditū apud Sconam.					

Aberdeen.		Edinburgh.	Perth.
Ancient.	Modern.		
157 15 3	L.5408 19 10 $\frac{3}{4}$	L.32 1 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	L.23 0 0
578 7 9	19830 9 5 $\frac{3}{4}$	333 18 5	13 1 4
20 0 0	685 14 5		
23 2 8	793 3 6		
99 11 0	3413 3 5 $\frac{1}{2}$		
34 0 0	1165 14 8		
94 6 5	3233 17 2 $\frac{1}{4}$		

Scotiam. Q^urtodecimo die Decembris anno gr̃e Miffio
T^{ri}scentes^e T^{ri}cesimo p^{ri}mo De rec^o suis a q^urtodecimo die
Marcij anni gr̃e Miffi T^{ri}scentes^e T^{ri}cesimo usq^{ue} in diem
p^{re}sentis comp^{ut}

Idm̃ oñat se de p^{re}p^{re}oitis burgi de Abden tā de finis dñi
burgi q^{uod} de aliis p^{re}sitis

... de Custuā de Abden

Idm̃ opt^{at} i solucōe fca Regi Angl de fmo Natiuitat^e bi Johis
bapt^e p^{er} x^{ristum} añ hoc 9 p^{er}2 in complement^o toci^{us} cōcesse p
pace, unde lre aq^{ue}tancie dñi Regis, L.6666 13s. 4d.

Compō Reginaldi More Cam Scot redd apud Abden xiii^o
die April. Anno gr̃e M^o. CCC^o quadragesimo de re-
ceptis suis in domo dñi Reg^{is} p totū temp^{us} quo
p^{ri}mū venit in franc mense videl^{icet} Majj anno gr̃e 7 c
xxxiiii usq^{ue} in p^{ri}mū diem mens^{is} Januā p^{er}xo añ hoc cōp
et sic de sex annis exceptis q^{uod}tuor mens cū ddo mens^{is}
Majj p^{ri}xo futuro finiēdo

Idm̃ oñat se de p^{re}p^{re}oitis burgi de Abden comparent p rec^o
W. de Blauntyr cōfessoris dñi Regis

... de eisdem p^{re}p^{re}oitis p sexcentos Salmones cū p^{re}pa-
racōe 7 salfacōe eorūdm ad opus Reg^{is}

... de eisdem p^{re}p^{re}oitis comp^{ut} p p^{re}dictas

... de Wiltmo del Rind 7 Pat^{er}cio de Scona Custu-
ma^{re} de Abden cōpent p q^{uod}tuor p^{re}dictas

... de David de Futy Robto de Edinh^{am} 7 Johe
Spring Custuma^{re} de Abd cōp^{ut} p tres p^{re}dict

Comp Dñi Wilti Bullok Camā^{re} Socie redditū apud Dun-
de, undecimo die Junij. Anno gr̃e Miffio CCC^o q^{uod}dra-
gesimo scdo

Idm̃

1351

C. XXVIII.

1340

C. XXIX.

		Aberdeen.			Edinburgh.	Perth.
		Ancient.	Modern.	Ancient.		
1312	Idm̄ oñat se de recept ² de p̄pōitis burgi de Abreden p 2P. Malcolmi Carpenter ... p cōp Hugonis de Galbrath ... de Custumañ de Abirden. p 2potū David de Fothy ⁊ Robti de Edenhame ... de burgo de Abirden p̄ contribucōe ... p contribucōe contingant Coitaten Comp Normani de Lesley locū tenent Thōe Coit ² de Ang ² dudū Cañar Scoē reddit. apud Dunde ixmo die Aprilis anno dñi Mithio CCC. q̄nq ^g nono Idm̄ oñat se de rec ² p costumarios b'gi de Abirden p ballivos b'gi de Abreden Comp dñi Walteri de Byg ^g Rectoris Eccleie de Erole. Cañarij Scoē reddit. apud Pth sēdo die Maij anno dñi Mithmo sexagesimo Idem oñat de bañ b'gi de Abirdene ... de costumarijs de Abiden ... de collect ² b'gi de Abirden p sēd. contribucōe dñi Reg ² Compot....eccleie de Erole Cañarij Scoē reddit. apud Pth xx die Junij anno dñi M.CCC. sexagesimo p ^{mo} In p ^{his} oñat se de recep de costumā burgi de Abirden p temp ² h ² cōm ... f ^m burgi de Abden ... Rec ² de tēa cōtuc ² b'goz p redēpē dñi Reg ² ... p custur ^m burgi de Abidu, 1361 1362 ... p f ^{mas} burgi Abidu de duob ² t ^{is} ... p custur ^r b'gi de Abirden ... p balliōs Comp	L.145 7 8 40 0 0 78 18 8 20 0 0 50 0 0 27 0 0 74 13 4 26 0 7 38 19 1 34 19 0 47 7 2 149 13 4 47 0 0 509 14 11 435 16 3 148 16 8 314 13 4 70 16 8	L.4984 9 11 ³ 1371 8 10 2707 11 4 685 14 5 1714 6 0 925 14 5 ¹ 2560 0 6 892 9 4 1335 17 8 ¹ 1198 3 10 ¹ 1623 14 6 ¹ 5131 9 6 ¹ 1611 8 10 ¹ 17477 2 11 ¹ 14942 5 4 ³ 5102 18 1 10788 13 1 ¹ 2428 11 9 ¹	L.25 7 6 62 18 0 27 8 4 40 6 6 38 13 4 122 11 10 11 10 0 54 10 5 1990 0 0 845 10 0 11 10 0 1100 0 0 128 9 8 14 5 5	L.12 11 8	
C. XXXI.						
1359						
C. XXXIV.						
1360						
C. XXXV.						
1361						
C. XXXVI.						
1362						
14th August.						
C. XXXVIII.						
1364						

		Aberdeen.		Edinburgh.	Perth.
		Ancient.	Modern.	Ancient.	Ancient.
10th Decem.	Comp dui Robti de Erskyne militis Camarij Scocie. Red- dit apud S'ueyne undecimo die Decemb' anno dñi Miflino CCCmo LXmo q'rto	L.699 0 0	L.23465 18 3	L.226 8 5	L.113 6 8
	... p eustur' de Abirden	69 3 9	2372 2 6	1826 3 0	
	... p an' viti. p' eozdem	113 0 0	3874 6 4½	15 16 8	
	... p ballios b'gi Abden				
	... p dñm Withm de Calabr' Canar' dñe ñre r'gie de eustua de Abden	250 0 0	8571 10 0	1814 0 0	370 5 10
	... ad solam redempcionis dñi ñri reg' de cont'buē b'gi de Abirden	87 13 4	3005 14 8¼		
	Comp Ade pyngle 7 Robti bullok eustumar' burgi de Abyrden reddiū Apud Pth 11th Januā '68				
	Idñ oñat se in p'nis pvenient. de cus' sexaginta octo last' nouē saccoz nou 7 dji pet' lane carē in decem nauib' de portu de Abird' p temp' hui' compt'	1919 4 1	47193 2 7½		
	... de cus' duoz millū sex centū duarū pelliū lanu- taž carē in dñis nauib'	18 16 8	463 2 3		
	... de cus' nouem last' duaž dac' 7 sex coriož carē in dñis nauib' p temp' compti	22 6 11	549 9 8		
	Sum' hui' Rec'	1960 7 8			
	Expens' eiusdm				
	Idñ comptat in libac' facto dño Walfo de Byg' Cam	240 12 0	604 18 3		
	Scoē recipienti quartū denar' custume	396 0 0	973 15 3		
	... Dño Witho de Calabre Cam dñe regine				
	... Dño Hugoni de Dunbar' pcipienti p annū de cus- tuma decem m'cas s' concess' p reg' annue pens'	3 6 8	81 19 5		
	... dño Walfo capellano regine p fcedo suo	5 0 0	122 19 0		
	... p defalcacōm custume nouē sacce t'u pet' 7 dj pet' lane				

C. XLIII.

1366

11th May.

C. XLVIII.

1368

		<i>Aberdeen.</i>			
		<i>Ancient.</i>	<i>Modern.</i>		
lane de antiqna lana dñi Walfi Moyngne de qua soluit					
īm 20 solid de saeco	...	L.5 1 3½	L.75 5 11½		
... dno Wilfo de Calabre p custuma unius sacci sex	...	0 15 4	18 17 0		
petr̃ ⁊ dj petr̃ lane	...	0 6 8	8 3 11½		
... f'ma dom' custume de tempe hui' compti	...	16 0 9	394 7 2		
... Custumaf p feodo suo peipientib' q'tuor deñ de lib̃	...	5 14 10	141 3 8		
... tronario p feodo suo de tempe hui' compti peipi-					
enti de saeco duos deñ					
		671 7 6½			
Sm' hui' Expñ	...	291 11 1½			
Et s' debent	...				
Com̃ Ballioꝝ burgi de Abird reddiit loco die ⁊ ano p'dcis					
1368	Idm̃ oñat se de firmis dci bgi de fio sci m'rt' p̃x añ hoc comp			℥. s. d.	106 13 4
	Solue' fact' dno Eþo Abird p sedis decimis			...	...
	... frib' p'die' peipib' p añ viginti sex Marcas			...	...
	... frib' Carnelitis de Abird peipib' p añ decē M're'			...	...
	... David hēd q'nd Malcolmi Wrych peipienti p añ decē lib v lj de codm fio			...	...
	... Electo cathañ noie ecclie sci Gilbti cathañ ex assignaçone capti ⁊ cōf'maçone dñi Rc' añ.			...	...
	tū q'nq M're'			1 13 4	
	... Eþo Oread peipienti p añ q'uq lib̃ de eod fio			2 10 0	
	... p nulo duoꝝ lapidū p tumbis regine const'end apd dunf-melyne ⁊ eariand de londoniis			10 0 0	
	... p una timbra de letys empta a Wilfo de Leth ad usū dhe regine et rec p John de Culichach			2 0 0	
	... Cañ recipienti s'r comptu			40 0 0	
	Sm' hui' exp̃ns			83 16 8	
	Et s' deb			22 16 8	
					106 13 1

		Aberdeen.		Edinburgh.	Perth.
		Ancient.	Modern.	Ancient.	Ancient.
C. XLIX.	Comptum dñi Walli de Byg ^o Rectoris ecclie de Erole Ca-				
1368	ñar Scoce ^o Reddit ^o Apud 14th Januarii, 1368				
	Idm oñat se de custuma de Abird in manu dñe regine tune	L.240 12 0	L.5916 7 0 ³ / ₄		
C. LI.	existen ^o vz de tota custuma noue lane	1195 9 5	29396 12 7 ¹ / ₂	L.3174 18 5 ¹ / ₂	L.521 8 6 ¹ / ₂
1369	Idm Idm oñat se p custu ^r de Abirdene	144 4 0	3545 17 8	4 0 0	
19th Jan.	... p balliuos				
	... de cont ^o buc ^o p redempcōne Regis	11 7 8	279 18 3 ³ / ₄	33 6 8	15 0 0
	... p balliuos burgi de Abirden de finis	62 16 8	1545 1 5 ¹ / ₂		
	... p custu ^r burgi de Abirden	291 0 1 ¹ / ₂	7155 16 10 ¹ / ₂		
	De custu ^r eiusdm de anno 68 ^o postq ^o dñs Willm de Ca-				
	lebre qui fuit officarius Regine in dco burgo cessit offi-				
	cio suo				
	... p arr ^o cōtbuē burgi de Abirden	28 4 4	693 16 4 ³ / ₄		
C. LIJ.	Idm oñat se p custuma ^r de Abirden	1001 13 10 ¹ / ₂	27090 10 11 ³ / ₄	3849 2 10 ¹ / ₂	710 5 7 ¹ / ₂
1370	...				
10th Feb.	... de contrib ^o burgi	98 0 4	2410 4 6	173 15 8	68 7 10
C. LIJ.	... de cust ^o burgi de Abirden	1291 16 1 ¹ / ₂	31765 10 2 ¹ / ₄		741 19 7
1371	... p balliuos	149 13 4	3680 6 8		
C. LVI.	Idm Idm oñat se de custuma ^r de Abirden	1274 11 3 ¹ / ₂	31341 10 10 ¹ / ₄	3481 10 10	771 17 4
1373	... de finis burgi p balli	46 6 8	1139 6 7 ³ / ₄	4 6 6	2 7 3
	... p contrib ^o burgi de Abirden	114 4 5	2808 14 9 ¹ / ₂	157 16 0	61 8 8
C. LVII.	Idm Idm oñat se p custu ^r m ^r	1387 1 11	34108 13 9	3584 1 1 ¹ / ₂	804 4 1
1374	... p balliuos burgi	46 6 8	1139 6 7 ³ / ₄		
C. LX.	Ditto	46 6 8	1139 6 7 ³ / ₄		
1375	... p custu ^r de Abirden	1389 8 10	34166 6 7	2005 7 4	320 8 10
C. LXI.	Idm oñat se p custum ^r de Abden	132 0 0	3245 17 8		7 16 10
1377	... recept ^o a balli de ditto	8 15 6 ¹ / ₂	215 16 6 ³ / ₄	0 3 8	
	... ditto p custm ^r ditto	339 10 6 ¹ / ₂	8348 18 6	200 0 0	
	... de Willm de Leth depōito ^r custume de Abird	261 3 7	6422 7 6	158 13 4	
C. LXIII.	Idm oñat se p custuma ^r burgi de ditto	1079 15 7	26551 3 0	1069 18 1	228 13 6

C. LXIV.

		Aberdeen.		Edinburgh.		Perth.	
		Ancient.	Modern.	Ancient.		Ancient.	
C. LXIV.	Comp dñi Johannis Lyone domini de Claumys Caſſarij						
	Scoie reddit⁹ apud Abredene, 14 ^a menſ Februař 1379						
1379	Item Idem oñat se d recept⁹ p balliuos	...					
	.... p custumař burgi	L. 23	3 4	L. 569	12 4	L. 3	3 1
	.... a Wiř de Leth burgen de Abreden ex pte Regis	1156	12 10	28441	16 3	1802	12 6
C. LXVI.	Comp Wiři di Cařia ĩ Alex fit Wiři custumař burgi de	13	6 8	327	17 3 $\frac{1}{4}$	L. 6516	15 3
	Abden reddit⁹ apud Pth xvin die Februař anni ĩ 1390						
1390	It ijdem cõputant⁹ oñant se custuř t ginta ſepte laſt vni⁹						
	Saceř ĩ nouẽdecĩ petraz lane carcat⁹ in decem nauib⁹						
	apud portu de Abden	495	14 5 $\frac{1}{2}$				
	.... de custuř mille trecentaz ĩ nouem decē pelhiũ						
	lanutaz carcat⁹ ut ſup⁹	8	15 5 $\frac{1}{4}$	13177	15 6 $\frac{1}{2}$		
	.... de custuř undeci laſt qũdecē dacř ĩ qũq corior						
	carcat⁹ in dicti nauib⁹	31	8 0				
		<hr/>					
	Smř huř oñaconis	535	17 11				
	Expenſ eořdem.						
	In ĩmiſ allocař cõputantib⁹ p feodis ſuis					£. s. d.	
	.... p feodo ſnatoris					8 18 8	
	.... p minut⁹ expñſ fcis ſup tronā					1 11 0	
	Johi de Spensa elico dō Reg⁹ ad expñſ ĩpiuſ dō apud colly inf⁹ vic⁹ de Kyncard⁹,					0 3 4	
	Sponſe Wiři de Cařia burgenſ de Abden de dono Reg⁹					6 15 1	
	Walfo de Tulach deputat. Cař					4 0 0	
	dno Johi Barbař arch Abyrdoũ p̄cipient p ānũ decem libras de dono reg⁹ dicti burgi p tempe					467 9 7	
	vite, de duob⁹ ĩmiſ					10 0 0	
	Walfo de Tulach depuřo caři fatenř recept⁹ ſup co					0 14 9	
		<hr/>					
	Smř huř expñſ					499 12 7	
							C. LXVII.

C. LXVII.	Comp ballioꝝ burgi de Abyrden reddit p Wiſm de Caſſa filiū vñu ballioꝝ apud Perth, 20 ^e die Februar 1390	£. s. d.	
		£.	s. d.
	Idem oñat se de firmis ⁊ exiti burgi de Abden	213	6 8
	De qua allocat ⁹		
...	Epo Abden p secūd. deſis s ³ debit. de firmis dēi burgi	£.	s. d.
...	fril ³ p̄dicatorib ³ de Abden p ele ^e reg ⁹ aūu	21	6 8
...	fril ³ Carmeli ³ eiusdem burgi ditto	17	6 8
...	dno Johi Barba ³ arch Abden p̄cipient p aūū vigit. Solid de firmis dēi burgi p se ⁊ suis	6	13 4
	assig ^e t ¹ ⁊ ad manū mortuā		
...	dno Thome de Erskyn p aūū hēditarie de firmis p cartā Reg ⁹	1	0 0
...	dno David de Lyndessay p aūū hēdita ³ p cartā Reg ⁹ de firmis	100	0 0
...	Epo Cathanen ³ p aūū qnq. Marc ⁹ aūue pensionis de ele ^e recolend memorie dni reg ⁹	40	0 0
	Robti p̄mi aūuat ¹ de firmis dēi burgi		
...	Epo Orgadeu ³ p aūū de firmis burgi de ele ^e reg ⁹ antiq ⁹ v̄t	3	6 8
...	hēdib ³ quond Ricardi filii Ranulfy p aūū ex inteodacōe antiq ^e vidz dni Robti Reg ⁹ p̄mi	5	0 0
...	David de Foulerton p aūū hēditarie de firmis	10	0 0
	Sm ^e hui ⁹ exp̄n ³ cc xii lib. xiii s 4d Et sic 13 s 4d	8	0 0
C. LXVIII.	Comp dni Roberti Comi ⁹ de Fif et de Meucteth Camerarii Scocie Redditu Menſ Februar 1390		
	Item Idem oñat se p custumarios	<i>Ancient.</i>	<i>Modern.</i>
C. LXX.	...	L.508 11 11	L.1012 10 1
1391	de custumar ³ de Abirdene	570 18 11½	1151 8 5
C. LXXI.	Compo ³ Wiſm de Caſſa et Alexi fil Wiſm Custumar burgi de Abirdene reddit ⁹ Apud Perth, 29 ^o Menſ Januā 1392.		
1392	Idm oñat se In p̄mis puenient ³ de custuna q̄draginta t̄m last Septē Sacē et q̄tuor petr lane cū dia petr	£. s. d.	
	lane careat. in nouē nauil ⁹ apud portū de Abirdene p temp ⁹ hui ⁹ compōt	...	582 18 4
...	de custuna duaꝝ milliū trescentaꝝ septē pelliū lanuatꝝ	...	15 7 7
...	ditto decem last ³ vñi ⁹ daē et q̄nq. coꝝ carcat. ut p̄s	...	26 17 4
	Sm ^e huius oñac ²	...	625 3 3
	Expens ⁹ eorū	£. s. d.	
	In p̄mis allocat ⁹ p feodis suis	10	8 4
...	t ⁹ natori p feodo suo de sūma lane ponderat	1	16 5
...	Exp̄ns f ⁹ cis sup t ⁹ nam	0	13 2
	Archidiacono		

...	Archidiacono Abirdonen ⁸ p annū de dono Reg ⁹	£. s. d.
...	ad v̄sus dñe regine p recept ⁹ Walteri de Tulach de magna eustum ⁹ burgi	10 0 0
...	dño David cōiti de carr ⁹ p se et hēdib ³ suis de corpe suo legitime pcreand. quib ³ deficiētib ³ Robto Scñ frī i ⁹ pius, &c.	200 0 0
...	dño David de Lyndessy de Glensck de elemosina Reg ⁹	100 0 0
...	Walfo de Tulach deput ⁹ cañlar	33 6 8
...	Expen ⁸ Magri Henrie de Pluskarty venient versus regem de ptib ⁹ morauie	266 13 9
...	Sm ⁹ huius exp̄n ⁸	2 6 8
...	Et s ⁹ s̄ exp̄nd	625 5 0
...	...	0 1 9
C. LXXII.	Comp balliuo ⁸ burgi de Abdene reddi ⁹ p WiHm de c ⁹ g. adam de Benyn fersith de Kethnes. et WiHm Blyndsey ⁹ ba ⁹ dñi	£. s. d.
1392	Ijdñ oñant se In p̄mis de recept p firmas et exitus burgi de Abdene	213 6 8
...	De qua allocat p solu ⁹ cōem	£. s. d.
...	E ⁹ po Abdonē ⁸ p fēdis sibi debīt. de firmis	21 6 8
...	f̄fil ⁹ p̄dicatorib ⁹ de Abirdene p elemosina reg ⁹ ditto	17 6 8
...	Ditto Carnali ⁹ eiusdē burgi ditto	6 13 4
...	dño Johi Barbe ⁹ Archidiacono Abirdonēss p aū de f̄mis dñi burgi p se t̄ suis assignat ⁹	1 0 0
...	eciā si assignauit ad manū mortuā	100 0 0
...	dño Thome de Erskine p aū hēditarie	40 0 0
...	dño David de Lyndesay, ditto	3 6 8
...	decano de cap̄lo ecēie Cathanē ⁸ p aū qñq. Marcas argēti aūue pensiois de ele ⁹ recolende	10 0 0
...	hēdibus quōdam Ricardi fit Radulphi p aū ex infeodacō antiqua vid dñi Robti reg ⁹ p̄mi	8 0 0
...	David de l'ouleton p aū hēdita ⁹	5 0 0
...	dompno Robto de logi canōico de Scona capellano reg ⁹ annuatī ad celch ⁹ ndū in Monas-	0 13 4
...	t̄io de Scona p dño rege et aīab ⁹ pat ⁹ sui et matris et p dña regina ac ecia p aīab ³ aīcesso ⁸ t̄ successo ⁸ suoz q̄uq. libras	213 6 8
...	Et Walfo de Tulach deput. cañ	C. LXXIII.
...	Sm ⁹ hui ⁹ exp̄n ⁸ , Et sic eque	...

	Aberdeen.			Edinburgh.		Perth.	
	Ancient.	Modern.		Ancient.		Ancient.	
C. LXXIII. 1393	Walf de Tulach Depuī Cañi oñat se p Custū de Abden	L.266 13 9	L.6000 7 10½	L.768 15 1	L.52 0 8		
C. LXXV. 1395	Comþ WiHi de Cañla & Alex. fit WiHi Custuʳiōi burgi de Abden reddit. apud Pth die Sabti fciō die Menß Apʳ anno 1395						
	Idem oñat se In p̃mis de Custuʳ qʳdʳginta octa last Sex Saccoz &c. quindecē petr̃ lane carcatʳ in sex nauibʳ apud portū de Abden p tempʳ hʳ compti ...	648 16 8°	14598 14 5				
	... de custuʳ qʳnq. milliū trecētaž ʳ octogit pelliū lanut carcatʳ in eisd nauibʳ p idē tempʳ	35 15 7	805 1 0				
	... de custuʳ septēdecē dacʳ ʳ sex coriož carcat. ut supʳ	16 14 11	376 13 11				
	Comþ dñi Robti Señ Coitʳ de Fyf et Meneth Cañi Scoē. Idē oñat se p custūa de Abden ...	69 9 6	1563 2 5	392 10 3	23 3 3		
C. LXXX. 1398	Compoī WiHmi de Cañla p̃is ʳ Robti filii David Custu-maʳ Abden reddit. apud Pth xxvi die Menß April 1398						
	Itē lidm̃ oñat se de custuʳ tʳginta septē last nouē sept petr̃ cū dʳ petr̃ lane carcat. in decē nauibʳ apud portū de Abirden	505 15 0	12435 7 11				
	... de custuʳ duaž miſtū tʳcentaž sexaginta sex petr̃ lanuž carcat. in sept nauibʳ apud portū p̃dēm ...	15 14 0	386 1 3				
	... de custuma octo last quatuordecē dacʳ ʳ qʳtuož cor carcat. in octo nauibʳ	23 5 1	571 14 3¼				
	...						

CHAPTER III.

SECTION I.

Battle of Harlaw—Sir Robert Davidson, Provost, slain—Ransom of King James I.—Sir Alexander Irvine of Drum Governor of the Town—fortified with Walls—King James II. and the Queen visit the Town—Supreme Court at Aberdeen—Bond of Man-rent to the Earl of Huntly—King James III. encouraged foreign trade—Slain at Stirling—Propositions from Lord Forbes, and other Lords, to revenge his death—Sir Andrew Wood's Claim to the Castlehill and Stocket set aside by the Lords of Council—King James IV. visits the Town—the celebration of his Marriage, attended by the Magistrates—Visit of the Queen—Battle of Flodden—Attack on the Citizens by Seton of Meldrum—King James V. visits the Town—his Remission to the Community—Licence for fortifying the Town with Walls—Contest with Lord Forbes, &c.—The Provost and twenty-four Citizens tried before the Justiciary Court at Linlithgow, and acquitted—Visit of the King—Ships of war fitted out by Aberdeen—John and George Faw, Gipsies—Battle of Solway—the Earl of Huntly Provost of Aberdeen—Battle of Pinkey, in which many of the Citizens were killed—the Earl of Arran and the Dowager Queen Mary visit the Town—Miscellaneous Occurrences.

FROM A. D. 1398 TO A. D. 1539.

FROM this period, the sources of information with regard to local A.D. 1398. matters becoming more copious, our details will be more minute, and our narrative more connected, than in the preceding chapters. The journals of the successive councils of the borough, and of the judicial proceedings in the different law courts, now commence. From these, incidents and transactions may be more copiously collected, and confidently stated; their causes, progress, and effects, more clearly traced; and the customs and manners of the people more distinctly

A.D. 1398. distinctly delineated, than from our former vague, detached, and scanty sources of information. At the same time, it will be necessary, occasionally, to have recourse to national histories, for matters of a more general nature, connected with the object of the present inquiries.

1406. The reign of Robert* III. was of short duration ; but, during the greater part of it, tranquillity had prevailed between the two British nations. Being a prince of slender capacity, and infirm from his youth, he committed the administration of public affairs to his brother Robert, Duke of Albany, who seems to have entertained designs of acquiring the crown to his own family. After the demise of the king, a parliament, to which Aberdeen sent its commissioners,† assembled at Perth, and appointed Albany regent of the kingdom. On assuming the reins of government, he found the affairs of the nation in the greatest disorder, and anarchy every where prevailing. James, the only son of Robert, and his successor in the throne, had been seized by the English during the continuance of a truce, and was unjustly detained a captive in England, where he remained for many subsequent years. The nobility, who aspired to independence, had assumed the whole power of the state. Being divided by mutual jealousies and inveterate animosities, they lived in a state of perpetual hostility with each other : and, the authority of the established government being little regarded, their quarrels were generally decided by the sword. Among the most turbulent and formidable of these chieftains was Donald, Lord of the Isles, who scorned all subjection to the delegated power of the regent. He had long considered himself as an independent prince, and was united to England by treaties of alliance,‡ which were not sanctioned by the government of his country. About this time the Earldom of Ross having fallen into the hands of the Regent, on the death of the former Earl, Donald of the Isles asserted his claim to it, in right of his wife, the presumptive heiress ; but motives, characteristic of the times,

* His name was John ; but, on his accession to the throne, he changed it to that of Robert, by the advice of his Parliament.

† Council Register, vol. i. p. 278.

‡ Rymer's Fædera, vol. viii. p. 527.

times, induced the Regent to deny this claim. Donald, incensed at this refusal, speedily raised an army of 10,000 men, within his own territories, for the purpose of vindicating his pretensions. With this force he took possession of the earldom without the least opposition. Elated with his success, he advanced southward, and invaded the fertile provinces of Moray, Strathbogie, and Garioch, committing many acts of plunder and devastation in the course of his progress. He now promised himself and his followers considerable advantages from the spoils of Aberdeen; but, whatever objects he may have had in view, his further advances were prevented by Alexander Stewart, Earl of Mar, the Regent's nephew, who had collected an army in the low country,* to oppose him. In this situation of affairs, the citizens of Aberdeen, ambitious to show their loyalty and their attachment to the established government, and dreading the approach of those hostile invaders, marched from the town, under the command of Sir Robert Davidson, their alderman; and, along with several barons of the county, joined the army under the Earl of Mar. The army, thus reinforced, having encountered the invaders at the village of Harlaw, about eighteen miles north of the town, a bloody conflict ensued, which was uncertain in its issue; and the night, rather than victory, put an end to the battle. The loss on both sides was very considerable, and each of the contending armies retreated on the following day, having no inclination to renew the combat. In this action Sir Robert Davidson fell, with many of his friends and followers,† who were long lamented by their fellow citizens. His body was brought to the town by his surviving companions in arms, and entombed in the north wall of Saint Nicholas Church, before the altar of Saint Ann,‡ which had been founded by his father, many years before, near the great arch of the steeple.§ The place of his sepul-
A.D. 1411.
July 24.
ture

* Fordun, lib. xv. cap. 51.—Buchanan, lib. x. c. 18.

† Among many other Barons, Sir Alex. Irvine of Drum was slain in this battle. His body was buried on the field, where, in ancient times, a cairn marked the place of his interment. It was long known by the name of Drum's cairn.—[*M.S. Advocate's Library.*]

‡ Cartulary of St. Nicholas Church, fo. 6.

§ The event appears to have been recorded in the Cartulary of St. Nicholas Church some years afterwards:—"Potens vir Robertus filius Davidis, &c. Et erat vir in cunctis prospe agens, fortis et

A.D. 1411. ture was marked by the following inscription on the wall of the old church :—

“SIR ROBERT DAVIDSON,
SLAIN AT HARLAW.
EQUES AURATUS.”

When the nave of this fabric fell to ruins, about the year 1740, the remains of the body were discovered, with a small crimson cap covering the head.* The standard which the citizens carried to the field is preserved in the armoury of the town to the present day. After this event, tradition relates, that the chief magistrate of Aberdeen was interdicted, by an act of the town council, from leaving the city, in his public character, on any future occasion.

1424. In this year King James effected his release from captivity in England, having stipulated to pay L.40,000 sterling, for his maintenance and education, during the long period of his confinement in that country. For liquidating this debt, Aberdeen was one of the four royal boroughs associated in a bond to the King of England for the sum of 50,000 merks Scots.† In order to guarantee the payment of this money, hostages were selected from the barons of the kingdom, and from the wealthiest burgesses, to remain as prisoners in England, until the condition of the bond should be accomplished. David Menzies, burgess of Aberdeen,‡ whose estate was estimated at 200 merks annually, being one of the hostages, was ordered, among others,

audax et obiit in bello de Harelaw et cum eo plures burgenses laudabiles invariabiles honestatibusq; radicati omniq; probitate inovati quorū nomina propter tempis brevitatem et memorie errācia exprimi non possunt, ut deceret in defensione ville et pro patrie libertate sub vexillo dñi Alexandri Scenescalli comitis Marrie Et sepultus dictus Robertus ante altare Sancte Anne in ecclia parochiali predicta cujus anime miseratur Deus.”—[*Fol. 6.*]

* The author acquired this information some years ago from a respectable inhabitant, who, when a boy, had occasion to see the remains of the body among the ruins.

† The boroughs were—Dundee, Aberdeen, Edinburgh, and Perth. Each of these granted a similar bond for the sum. The common seal of Aberdeen was of red wax, suspended from the bond, which was dated at Perth, 18th February, 1424.—[*Rymer's Fœdera*, vol. x. p. 324, 325.] The sum was equal to L.640,332 10s. of modern Scottish money, in 1738; or L.53,361 10s. sterling.

‡ Abercromby, vol. ii. p. 266.

others, to repair to England, where he remained under restraint for some time.* King James, on his arrival at Durham, on the 26th March, granted to these boroughs an ample indemnification from the consequences of this engagement, in the form of a bond, which is deposited in the archives of Aberdeen.†

A.D. 1425.

After the barbarous murder of this prince,‡ the affairs of the kingdom being in a distracted state, the community of Aberdeen judged it expedient, for its defence and protection, to court the patronage of Sir Alexander Irvine of Drum, who was a baron of considerable influence in the county. His residence was a few miles from the town, and his family had long been attached to the interests of the citizens. He was invested with the highest civil and military authority in the town, by the unanimous consent of the burgesses, under the title of captain and governor; which office he continued to hold

1437.

1440.
October.

* Mr. Menzies' annual estate would have been equal to L.213 8s. 10½d. sterling money, in the year 1738. In his captivity he was attended by Thomas of Tillew, Priest; John Hadyngton, John Makke, Walter Fresell, Andrew Dalowe, and Davy Johnneson, servants; who obtained permission from the King of England for that purpose.—[*Rymer's Fæd.* vol. x. p. 328. 338.]

† “*Jacobus dei grā Rex Scottorum omnibus hominib⁹ Clericis et Laicis Regni nostri notum facimus nos auctate nostra Regia teneri et tenore ꝑncium firmiter et fideliter obligari dilectis ⁊ fidelib⁹ nōis burgensis videlicet ꝑpōitis ⁊ balliuis et cōmunitatib⁹ quatuor burgorum regni nri predtis de Edinburgth, Perth, Dundee, ⁊ Abirdeñ ac eorum hēdib⁹ ⁊ successorib⁹ ad obsuand ipos ⁊ hēdes suos ⁊ successores ⁊ eorum quemlib⁹ indempne seu indempnes de soluōne quīquaginta millium marcaꝝ pro qua sūma soluenda serenissimo Principi henrico Regi Anglie pro nra liberaōne predti ꝑpōiti ⁊ coietates ⁊ balliui quatuor burgoꝝ nostroꝝ ad mandatum nostrum sunt litteratorie obligati ad terminos inde concordatos, Et ad hoc faciendū ut premissum ē sine exceptōe revocaōne aut impedimēto quibuscūq. Obligamus nos auctoritate nre regie majestatis heredes nros et successores reges Scocie firmiter ⁊ sine fraude ꝑnciū ꝑ tenorem, insup promittim⁹ ⁊ curabem⁹ nos facere omēs et singulos ꝑpōitos et balliuos ac cōitates ceteroꝝ burgoꝝ regni nostri se heredes suos et successores sub suis cōiſs sigillis obligare in forma sufficienti ꝑꝑōitis et balliuis dtoꝝ quatuor burgorum ad assis-tend ⁊ adliherendum eis insolucōe dte sūme ꝑcēnie in casum et eventum quib⁹ pro ea distringantur siue eū solvāt in toto ⁊ in ꝑte et ad participēdū et contribuend cum eis juxta vires in omī onere tā occasione ꝑncipaꝝ soluōis pꝑate sūme ꝑcēnie nō solute q. suꝑtuū et expensaꝝ circa factum hui⁹ obligacōis jam factoꝝ ⁊ imposterum fiendoꝝ In eujus rei testimonium sigillum nrm ꝑntib⁹ jussimus apponi apud Dñelmia xxvi die Mens̃ Marcii Anno Dñi millesimo quadragitesimo vicesimo quarto, et regni nostri xviii.*”

‡ King James was murdered, February 20, 1437, in the Carthusian Monastery of Perth, by Walter, Earl of Athol, his uncle; and other conspirators.

A.D. 1440. hold two years.* This is the only instance of such an office having been created in the borough; for it does not appear to have been revived, even in the time of the Earl of Huntly, in the middle of the subsequent century, his Lordship, who became chief magistrate, being distinguished only by the title of provost.

1442. The anarchy and confusion which prevailed in the nation during the minority of James II. kept the community of Aberdeen in a state of constant alarm. Having no regular government to resort to for protection, it seemed to depend, in a great measure, upon its own internal resources. While the disorders in the country subsisted, the magistrates and council found it requisite to adopt the most effectual measures for the defence of the town. The citizens were commanded to take arms, and support the magistrates in their authority. The town was ordered to be fortified with walls; the ports were kept shut every night, and an armed patrol of thirty men was daily selected from the citizens, as a guard, to prevent surprise.† This alarm, however, appears to have soon subsided, and the citizens were, of course, released from this military duty.

1448. In the month of July, this year, King James made his first visit to the town. He was received by the magistrates with every mark of distinction due to their sovereign;‡ and the citizens were zealous in manifesting their joy on the occasion. A present, under the denomination of a propine, was made to him, of two tons of Gascony wine, six lights of three stones of wax, and twelve half pounds of scorchets.§

1455. His queen, in the month of January, this year, made a similar visit, and was received with equal marks of respect. A propine was presented to her, of 100 merks,|| in money; but such was the difficulty of procuring the means, that, to raise this sum, the magistrates devised the expedient of anticipating the revenues arising from the fishings, lands, and other property of the borough. These were ordered to be let by leases for a certain term.¶

The

* Council Register, vol. iv. p. 211. 253.

† Ibid. vol. v. p. 660. 663.

‡ Council Register, vol. v. p. 731.

§ Sweet-meats,

|| Equal to L.64 10s. sterling.

¶ Council Register, vol. v. 731. 790.

The supreme court of law being at this time ambulatory, was occasionally held in different parts of the kingdom. The parliament, in which the nomination of the judges was vested, appointed the high court of judicature, called the session, consisting of three clergymen, three barons, and three burgesses, without either salaries or perquisites, to sit, during the space of forty days, for the administration of the law, at Aberdeen. The judges were—the Bishop of Ross, the Abbot of Deer, and Mr. Walter Idel, for the clergy; the Earl of Errol, the Lord Glammis, and Lord Forbes, for the barons; John Fyfe, provost of Aberdeen, and Andrew Menzies and Walter Thomson, two of the burgesses, for the boroughs.* At this period, however, justice, in ordinary matters, was administered to the citizens by the provost and baillies, as judges in the courts of the borough; and appeals to higher tribunals were rarely attempted by the inhabitants.

The nobles and barons, with a view to balance the influence of the crown, combined with each other in leagues of mutual defence, called *bonds of man-rent*. Associations of this kind were not uncommon; they were often concerted in time of peace, and became formidable engines, in the hands of the nobles, even against the throne. The Earl of Huntly, the most powerful chieftain in the north, influenced the magistrates and the community of Aberdeen to unite with him in a bond of this nature, under their secret seal. “On the one hand, his Lordship covenanted to defend the freedom, liberties, and infeudments of the town: and, on the other, they engaged to be faithful and sincere in their advice, if he should ask it; to keep his counsel, if he should desire it; and on his Lordship repairing to the town, with his attendants, whether few or many, they were to be protected.” The magistrates and the community, however, had the prudence to enter a saving article, by which they reserved their allegiance to their sovereign, and the freedom of the borough. This covenant was to endure for ten years.† Not long after the formation of this league, his

* Abercrombie, vol. ii. p. 372.

† BOND OF MAN-RENT.

“Be it made kend till all mē be thir pnt tīes Us Aldmā, Baillieis, Cōsale, and puīte of ye burgh of Aberdene to be oblist till a noble and nichtie Lorde Alex. Erle of Huntlie and Lorde of Baide-

A.D. 1463. his Lordship had occasion to call for their services. Since the death of King James II. who had fallen at the unfortunate siege of Roxburgh castle,* John, Lord of the Isles, and Earl of Ross; Donald Ballagh; and John de Isle, son and heir of the same Donald, had thrown off their allegiance to the crown of Scotland, and entered into a treaty with Edward IV. of England.† By the first article of this treaty, the Earl and his people engaged to become the subjects of Edward, and to support the King of England in his wars in Scotland, or against the Scots in Ireland. On the other hand, certain subsidies were stipulated to be paid to the Earl, and his confederates.‡ Confiding in this treaty, they put themselves in arms, invaded the north of Scotland, surprised the castle of Inverness, and plundered the adjacent

nach ī manere & fourme as eft̃ folowis.—That īs to say, for samekle as ye forsaide Lorde is oblist till us ī mātenance and supplie to kepe us in oure fredomis and infestmēt̃ for certane termes as ī ye forsaide Lords īres at lynth made till us ȝapon mar fullely is contenit, that we sal be lele and trew to ye forsaide Lorde Erle in counsale gif he asks us eft̃ oure wic̃ and knowlage, and kepe his counsale gif he charge us. And atour quhē it sal pless ye forsaide Lorde to cum to oure said burgh with few personis or mony, and to remaī or pas quben him likes, we sal at all oure gudely power ȝfsve & kepe him and his company within our said burgh lely and treuly, but fraude or gile, and gif ony wald inwade him within oure said burgh, to tak sik part with him ī his defens as we wald do for ye defens of oure awyn persons; kepand our allegeans till oure soverane lorde ye king, and ye fredomis of oure said burgh, yir our īres till endur for al ye termes of ten yeres, fra ye day and date of ye making of thaime. In witnes of ye quhilk thing our secrete sele to thir oure īres is affixt at oure burgh of Aberdene forsaide ye xxth day of Januare, ye yere of God Jm. CCCC. sexte and twa.”—[*Council Register*, vol. 5. p. 467.]

* The King was killed by the bursting of a cannon, Aug. 3d, 1460.

† Rymer's *Fædera*, vol. ii. p. 484.

‡ By this singular treaty, which was coneluded at London, February 13th, 1462, Edward engaged to pay to the Earl of Ross a subsidy of 100 merks, in time of peace, and L.200 in time of war; to Donald, L.20 in time of peace, and L.40 in time of war; to John, the son of Donald, L.10 in time of peace, and L.20 in time of war: all sterling money, during their respective lives. It was further agreed, that, when the King of England, with the assistance of these allies, and of James, Earl of Douglas, had subdued the kingdom of Scotland, or the greatest part of it, he should grant all the countries beyond the Forth to the Earls of Ross and Douglas, and Donald Ballagh; to be equally divided among them, and held of the crown of England; that the Earl of Douglas should be restored to all his estates to the south of the Forth; and that if Edward made any peace or truce with the King of Scotland, his allies should be comprehended in it. The Earl of Douglas, as a reward for accomplishing this alliance, and for other services, was to receive from Edward an annual pension of L.500 during his life.—[*Rymer's Fædera*, vol. ii. p. 487.]

jacent country.* The Earl of Huntly, with other great barons, hav- A.D. 1463.
ing determined to oppose them, required the provost and the citizens
of Aberdeen, by a special letter, committed to the charge of their
Lordship's squire, Alexander of Leslie, to join them, at the Cabrach,
on the evening of Monday the 18th of July. The provost and his
friends, feeling no inclination to embark in an undertaking at so great
a distance, and, perhaps, reflecting upon the fatal disaster at Harlaw,
returned to his Lordship an answer, excusing themselves for not at-
tending him, "because they had neither horses nor men; the king
had, moreover, ordered them to remain in the town, for he had cer-
tain intelligence of the English fleet being on the coast, with an in-
tention to destroy this and other towns of the realm."† This war-
fare, however, seems to have terminated without bloodshed. The
Earl of Ross and his confederates returned with their army to the
isles, carrying along with them the spoils and plunder which they
had taken at Inverness, and in other parts of the country.‡

The friendly intercourse which had subsisted for several years 1480.
between the two British nations, being now unhappily interrupted,
there was every appearance of an invasion of Scotland by the English.
The town was, therefore, put in a state of defence, with fosses, and
other works; and the ports were secured in the usual manner. The
harbour was locked by a boom, thrown across its entrance; and every
citizen

I

* Buchanan, lib. xii. cap. 19.—Rymer's Fæd. vol. ii. p. 483, 484.

† "Hee and mighty Lord, I recomawnde me humly onto your Lordschippis with all humylite
& frvice pleyss your Lordschippis to wit, yat I hafe ressavyt certā of yours be your Skwyar Alex.
of Lessly, chargeande me and ye tone to be at you yis Monūday at evine at ye Cabbrach / My Lord,
I hafe callit ye nichburs of our tone, and schawine yai your credens, ye quhilk nichburs are wele
set at all yair gudely power to pleyss your Lordschippis with yair frvice in as fer as yai may bes-
eking your Lordschippis ye will nocht be displeysit yat yai may nocht cū to yis hasty tryst eff̃ his
credens form, gude fathe we hafe na hors na man yet nane to cū becauss of ye warnying of ye cuntre
of gentil mē to cū to your Lordschippis at yis tryst. And forthir, my Lord, we are chargit be our
soūane Lorde to kepe our tone, for he as sickirly infournyt of a flot of Inglismē to cū for ye des-
tructōne of our tone, and of uthirs within yis realme; for ye quhilk we beseke yow til hafe us ex-
cusit, as our great traist is in your singular Lordschippis, ye quhilk all mighty God osine at your
hee and mychty nobill hartē dessir Written und my signet at Abden yis last Monūday ye xviii day
of July."—(1463).—[*Council Register*, vol. v. p. 485.]

‡ Abercrombie, vol. ii. p. 397.

A.D. 1480. citizen was put in arms, and prohibited from leaving the town, or removing his goods, under the penalty of banishment for a year and a day, besides the forfeiture of his property.*

1488. About this time the Earl of Arran, and others of the nobility, discontented with the conduct of King James III. who both feared and hated them, formed a combination against him, held secret intrigues with England, and made every preparation for a civil war. The Duke of Albany, and John, Earl of Marr, the king's brothers, incensed at the treatment which they had received from him, entered warmly into all their views. The nobles were provoked to arms; and having prevailed upon the Duke of Rothsay, the king's eldest son, to put himself at their head, they openly avowed their intention of dethroning the king. In this posture of affairs James took the field, and encountered the malcontents near Bannockburn; but his troops being defeated, and put to flight, he was slain, in the pursuit of his broken army, in the vicinity of Stirling. Previous to this fatal insurrection, he had held courts for the administration of justice at Aberdeen, where he was attended by the Earl of Huntly, Lord Forbes, and other great barons, who seemed greatly attached to his interest, and had determined to give him their firmest support.† James III. is reported by historians to have been a prince of little genius, and to have devoted his time to architecture, music, and other arts, which were not much esteemed in those feudal times, when war was regarded as the most honourable, and the only useful occupation. It seems, however, that he was not insensible of the value of commerce with foreign countries; for he was the first sovereign of Scotland who sent ambassadors to the continent, to negotiate affairs of trade for the benefit of his kingdom. In the year 1478, an embassy was sent to the Duke and Duchess of Burgundy, for the express purpose of a commercial negotiation. When this was notified to the magistrates of Aberdeen, the provost and five burgesses were delegated, as commissioners, to repair to the king, at Edinburgh, in order to concert the proper measures to be adopted in this important affair.

* Council Register, vol. vi. p. 680. 691.

† Henry, vol. ix. p. 409.

affair.* Soon after, George Parkle of Parkle having been appointed A.D. 1488 by the king conservator of the Scottish privileges in the territories of the Duke of Burgundy, the magistrates and merchants of Aberdeen, at the request of the king, granted to the conservator their commission, upon 5th July, 1484, under the common seal, for the same purpose.† In the year 1485, the magistrates, council, and community granted their bond to his Majesty for ten lasts of salted salmon, to be delivered at St. Peter's day, to the king's factors in England, France, Flanders, Holland, or Zealand; the charge of this commodity was defrayed by an assessment on the inhabitants:‡ but for what purpose the adventure was intended, we have not been able to discover.

In the month of September, this year, Alexander, Lord Forbes, 1489. and other noble Lords, repaired to Aberdeen, with a view to ascertain the sentiments of the community in regard to rescuing the young king from the hands of those who had taken advantage of his youth, and betrayed him into the unnatural rebellion which had proved fatal to his father. In order to make a stronger impression on the minds of the people, they carried along with them, upon the point of a spear, the bloody shirt of the murdered king.§ On this occasion, the citizens being assembled by the magistrates, readily acquiesced in certain resolutions which were proposed to them by these Lords, and to which they ordained the common seal of the borough to be affixed. These resolutions referred particularly “to the bringing to condign punishment the traitors who had put to death their late sovereign; to the reformation of the government of the King's treasury; and to the protection of his sacred person.”||

I 2

Mean-

* Council Register, vol. vi. p. 528.

† Ibid. vol. vi. p. 808.

‡ Council Register, vol. vi. p. 943. 980.

§ Buchanan, lib. xiii. c. 4.

|| “The xii day of September, the year 1489, the aldermā, ballieis, consale, and comūte gaithireyt, grauntit ande consentit, be thar aithes, to thir artikilis and condiōnis und w²in subsēvit w² div²ss Lords & barons hands; In ye first quhur our soṽane Lord was slane & nay punmican maid ŷfor apone ye tresonabill vile psonis that putt yar hands violentlie ī his mast nobile psone, quhais saule God assolze to se for puniōn of thay tresonabile psonis pōmittar⁹ of ye saide slaucht. Secondly, for ye reformaōne of ye mysgov²ance of our soṽane Lords tresour and disposiōne of his

A.D. 1489. Meanwhile an attempt had been made by Sir Andrew Wood of Largo, admiral of Scotland under the late king, to deprive the community of a considerable portion of its patrimonial possessions, namely, the forest of Stocket, and the Castlehill, on pretence of his having obtained a right to them by a royal grant from King James III. This claim occasioned a considerable ferment in the community; and the citizens, on its first agitation, seem to have determined to resist it by force of arms. But violent measures were fortunately prevented, by the magistrates bringing the question before the king, and lords of the council, who were at this time the supreme judges in such matters. These speedily set Wood's claim to rest, by an award, finding, "that the alderman, baillies, and community, were entitled to enjoy the burgh of Aberdeen, with the pertinents, as they had formerly done; in regard they had asserted their right, in consequence of the royal charter which had been granted to them by King Robert Bruce." This decree was confirmed by King James IV. on the 20th June, 1497, by a deed, under the great seal.*

King

hētage menes and his auctōte and croume. And also for ye remeid and soūte of our soverane Lords most nobile psone & of our Lords his broȝ, and in likwyss his tresour strintht and artelary, to be putt in souer & comptabile mēnyf hands to ye utilite and pfit of our soȝane Lord & his successour be ye ayvss and cōnsal of the thre estats. Alsua yt al ransome tane be ony maif of mane of ony of ye king's liegs spuale or tempale be restorit & givin agans. And alsua yat his lawis & justice be mūstif throw his realme to all his liegs equaly, according to ye pleasure of God ꝑmon pfit of the realme and liegs; and grantit thar cōmone sele ȝapone."—[*Council Register*, vol. vii. p. 137.]

* "Jacobus di gracia Rex Scottorum omnibus probis hominibus suis ad quos pntes ite pervenint salutem sciatis nos quodd actum sive decretum per dominos nri consilii inferius discriptos datum et promulgatum utiq; intellixisse sub hac forma.—At Edinburgh, the xix day of Junii, the yere of God Jm. iiiic lxxxiii yeris.—The Lordis of counsale underwritin, that is to say, a maist reverend and reverend faderis in God, Robert, Archibishop of Glasgow; George, Bishop of Dunkeldin; nobill and mighty Lordis, Archibald, Erle of Angus, &c. Chancellare of Scotland; Archibald, Erle of Ergile; Williame, Erle Mfchell; John, Lord Glamys; Andro, Lord Gray; Williame, Lord Borthuick; Laurence, Lord Oliphant; Robert, Lord Lile; Johnne, Lord Drūmond; William, Lord of Sanct Johnnis; venerable faderis in God, George, Abbot of Dunfermling; Robert, Abbot of Kelso; George, Abbot of Paslay; Maister Richard Murehede, Dene of Glasgw, and Secret² to ȝr soverane Lord; Master Johnne Fresale, Dene of Lestalrig, and Clerk of the Register; Sir Duncane Forest of Skipinch, knight, Cōptrollare to ȝure soverane Lord; Johnne of Ogilvy, son and appearand air to James, Lord Ogilvy, of Arly; Sir James Allerdies, provost of our Lady kirk of the heuch; and Maister Richard Lausonn: Anent ye terne assignit be a bill, to the alderman, balieis, and cōmite of Aberdene, to produce and schew sic richt as yai wuld use anent ye clame of the forest of Stokket, ye

King James IV. on frequent occasions visited the town, and experienced the liberality of the community, according to its ability. On his first visit, about this time, he was presented with a propine in wine, wax, and spiceries, to the value of thirty crowns, equal to L.4 16s. Scots; but such was the low state of the treasury funds, that the magistrates were obliged to borrow the money from two of the citizens. On the first negociation of James' marriage, a present was made to him of L.20* in money; and when he visited the town this year, attended by the Earl of Bothwell, and other noble Lords, he was presented with a propine in Malmsey wine, wax, and sweetmeats.† In the course of his pilgrimage to the shrine of St. Duthac,‡ in Ross-shire, during the Christmas festival, he made another visit to the town. On this occasion he was attended by his nobles: and the citizens, being ambitious to display their loyalty, made considerable preparations for the reception of the royal party. The propine presented to his Majesty consisted of wine, wax, and spiceries,

Castellhill, and divers uȝis places clamyt, to pertene to our soverane Lord, oure soverane Lordis Advocate, and Andro Wood, comperand for yare interesse, and ye parte of our soverane Lord; Alex. Rede, aldman of Aberdene, and ye procuratour of ye said tounn, beand pnt. The charter and inleiftment maid to ye said tounn be King Robert de Broiss, of maist nobill mynd, at lenth sene, hard, and understandin. The Lordes of ȝnsalc ȝwith ripely avisit, decretis and deliveris yat for ocht yat yai have zit sene the said alderman, baillies, and comȝte sall broik and joiss ye said burgh of Aberdene, with ye pertinent⁹ as yai brokit of before, becaus yai clamyt the said bounds and placis be vertew of ye said charter, ay and quhill thai be lauchfully put ȝfra, and but ȝjudice of our soverane Lord's richt.—Extract. de libro actorum per me Johannē Frcsale decanū de Lestalrig clericum Rotulorum ⁊ regri ac consilii supremi dñi nri regis, sub meis signo et subscriptione manualibus. Quodquid actum sive decretū ac om̃ia et singula eodem ȝtenta in om̃ibus suis punctis et articulis approbamus Ratificamus et pro nobis et successōb⁹ nris ut ȝmissum est ȝfirmamus. Datum sub testimonio magni sigilli nri Apud Edinburgh, vicesimo die Mēis Junii, anno dñi millesimo quadringētesimo nonagesimo quarto, et regni nri septimo."

* Equal to L.8 11s. 6d. sterling.

† Council Register, vol. vii. p. 472. 492. 722.

‡ King James, as an expiation for the offences which he had committed against his unfortunate father, wore an iron chain around his body, and made frequent pilgrimages to the shrines of favourite Saints in his own kingdom; and had it in contemplation to visit the Holy Land. In the year 1507, 30th August, he rode from Stirling to Elgin, by the way of Perth and Aberdeen, being about 187 miles; and on the subsequent day, which was the festival of the Saint, he rode to St. Duthac, being about 50 miles more, and arrived in time to attend the celebration of the mass, and receive the sacrament.—[*Leslie*, p. 345.—*Dr. Henry*, vol. 11. p. 409.]

A.D. 1497. spiceries, besides L.32* in money. Donations were, at the same time, made to his attendants, to a considerable amount,† the whole expence being defrayed by the fines which had been obtained on the renewal of the leases of the salmon fishings‡ of the river Don.§ The king remained here for some time; and it is probable that, during his stay, he had made some arrangements for the establishment of the university at Old Aberdeen, for which he had obtained a Bull from Pope Alexander, on the 6th of February, 1494.

About this period there appears to have been a considerable commotion in the town, arising from the rumour of an invasion by the English, which was threatened in consequence of the dispute between King James and Henry VII. of England, regarding the protection and assistance which the former had afforded to the famous Perkin Warbeck, who, calling himself the Duke of York,|| had made pretensions to the crown of England. That the citizens might be duly prepared to repel their enemy, all fit to bear arms were ordered to assemble, on the 18th of July, at the Cunninghairhills, every burgesse armed, according to his degree: and, for the purposes of defence, a blockhouse was constructed at the sand-ness; and a breast work, with a ditch, was formed thence to the north haven, or the mouth of Don.

On

* Equal to L.13 14s. 3½d.

† In Spiceries	L.1 16 0	Lord Gordon, one gallon of	
Wine	2 12 0	Claret	L.0 4 0
Three stones of Wax	2 14 0	His Majesty, one ton of Wine	
Pipe of Wine to the Earl of Huntly	5 0 0	_____ twenty-four boysts of scorcheats	
The Organ Man	2 0 0	_____ one doz. of pairs of torches	
Lord Oliphant, one half gallon		_____ four stones of Wax.	
of Claret	0 2 0		

‡ Council Register, vol. vii. p. 839. 846.

§ At this period, it had been the practice to let the salmon fishings and lands, belonging to the town, on short leases, for three, five, or seven years, in consideration of fines; but on this occasion a lease had been granted, for nineteen years, to a salmon fishing on the river Don. It was called in question by certain burgesses, in a declaratory action before the Lords of Council, and set aside by their decree; the town's common seal being ordered to be taken from it, and destroyed.—[*Council Register*, vol. vii. p. 859.]

|| The town had contributed, by order of the king, in 1496, L.30 for the support and the clothing of eight men of Warbeck's regiment; and L.100, in lieu of service in the army sent against King Richard.—[*Council Register*, vol. vii. p. 745. 752.]

On this occasion "*carriages of war, guns, and artillery,*" were also provided; and a detachment of the citizens was daily appointed, to guard these works, for thirty-three successive nights.* But a negotiation for peace betwixt the two kingdoms having taken place, these preparations and works of defence were rendered unnecessary. A.D. 1197.

The preliminaries of the marriage of King James IV. with the Princess Margaret, eldest daughter of Henry VII. of England, being now completed, great preparations were made for the celebration of the nuptials in Scotland. The royal boroughs had been assessed for 1000 merks and 100 crowns, as their proportion of the expence of the ambassadors, who had been sent to the court of England to negotiate the treaty of marriage; of which sums one tenth part was apportioned on Aberdeen.† In order to contribute to the splendour and to the festivities at the solemnization of the marriage in Scotland, the provost and a certain number of the most respectable citizens were delegated to repair to Edinburgh, where they were attended by the minstrels of Aberdeen, bearing the city coat of arms, displayed in silver. On this important mission, the minstrels were allowed ten pounds, which were paid by the dean of guild, to defray their charges.‡ On the 21st of February, this year, the queen was delivered of a son, which gave universal joy to the whole kingdom. Intelligence of this event being brought to the town, there was much rejoicing among the inhabitants: and the magistrates and the respectable citizens manifested their joy by libations of wine at the cross, and by breaking the glasses, as was customary on such occasions.§ 1503. 1506.

In the month of May, this year, the queen made her first visit to the town; and her reception appears to have been attended with a good deal of pompous and expensive pageantry, displayed by the inhabitants. On her Majesty's arrival, a purse of L.200 in money was presented to her by the magistrates, in name of the community; and, while she remained in the town, the streets were daily decorated with arras work and tapestry. However trifling this donation might

now

* Council Register, vol. vii. p. 741. 814.

† Ibid. vol. vii. p. 1121.

‡ Council Register, vol. viii. p. 239. 241. 412.

§ Ibid. vol. viii. p. 667.

A.D. 1511. now appear to be, it was not raised without considerable difficulty. The magistrates adopted the expedient usually resorted to in such cases, of granting leases in reversion of certain lands and salmon fishings belonging to the community, for payment of grassums, or fines, which enabled them to provide for the donation to the queen, and the expence of the preparations which had been made at this time for her reception.* King James himself visited the town on repeated occasions, and was presented with the customary propines of wine, wax, spiceries, and sweet-meats.†

1513. About this time, the unfortunate expedition against England being undertaken by King James, Aberdeen furnished twenty spearmen and six horses to the army, at the expence of L.200, raised by assessment upon the inhabitants.‡ The disastrous result of this enterprise, in the fatal field of Flodden, so well known, was long remembered in Scotland; and Aberdeen participated in the general calamity of that unpropitious day. In this rash and fatal battle King James terminated his reign, having fallen, with many of his nobles and barons.

1525. A tumult at this time occurred in the town, which strongly characterised the relaxed state of the government of the kingdom. Alexander Seton of Meldrum, John Leslie of Wardhouse, and William Leslie of Balquhain, three potent barons of the Garioch, impatient of revenge for a supposed injury done to them, or to some of their friends, by the citizens, entered the town on Sunday the first of October, under silence of night, along with their confederates, to the number of four score men, armed with spears, and other warlike instruments. They wreaked their fury on the inhabitants, who flew to arms. A bloody conflict ensued, and the invaders were repulsed,
by

* Council Register, vol. viii. p. 1182.

† In 1505 he was in the town, and received a propine of six pairs of torches, one dozen of prikats, thirty-six syfs of wax, twelve pounds of scoreheats, and as much wine as the master of the cellar inclined. In 1507 and 1509 he received similar presents.—[*Council Register*, vol. viii. p. 508. 814. 1001.]

‡ Council Register, vol. ix. p. 255—equal to about L.85 14s. 4d. sterling money.

by the bravery of the citizens, and driven out of the town; but this was not accomplished without considerable slaughter on both sides. In the course of this fray, eighty of the inhabitants were either killed or wounded, among whom were several of the magistrates. The assailants having retreated homeward, the town was immediately put in a posture of defence: artillery was prepared, and the citizens, being completely armed, were determined to resist these turbulent and hostile barons, and their confederates, if they should attempt to make another attack. It appears on record, that this invasion was undertaken at the instigation of John Collison, who had formerly held the office of chief magistrate; and that some of the people of the town, probably influenced by him, had taken an active concern with the aggressors.* This affair became the subject of a formal complaint to the king, and the lords of the council; but no redress appears to have been given. Some time afterwards it was terminated by an arbitration of certain bishops and noble lords, who had been mutually chosen as umpires.† What their award was, or whether the citizens or the assailants were most culpable in this tumultuous and disastrous commotion, cannot now be known.

In the end of this year, King James V. having notified his intention of visiting the town, at the time of the Justice Eyre, great preparations were made for his reception. He was received by the magistrates with the usual ceremonies, and marks of attention; and, as a mean of propitiation for his favour, a present was made to him of wine, wax, and spiceries. On this occasion it seemed that the citizens had gained his confidence; for he was graciously pleased to grant to the magistrates and community an ample remission of all past crimes and offences, in the form of a deed, under the great seal.‡ Not long after

K

those

* Council Register, vol. xi. p. 627.

† The umpires were—Robert, Bishop of Moray; James, Bishop of Ross; James, Earl of Moray; William, Earl of Montrose.—[*Archives of the town.*]

‡ “*Jacobus dei gracia Rex Scottorum, omnibus probis hominibus suis ad quos presentes lre pervenerint salutem sciatis quia cum ausamento et consensu nri thesaurarii et dnorum Compositorum Reinissimus Preposito, balliuis comitatu burgensibus le scot et lot soluentibus et eorum scrutoribus actualiter remanentibus infra burgum nrm de Aberdene et inhabitantibus intra terras et limites siue*

A.D. 1529. those occurrences which have been now related, Seton of Meldrum, the leader of the commotion, was killed by the master of Forbes, in the

mareliuas burgales eiusdem in genere et in specie Latoribus ꝑncium Rancorem animi nri sectam regiam & omnē actionē quem et quas erga Iꝑos concepimus habemus seu quouismodo in futurum habere poterimus pro eorum proditoriis remanencia mora et absentia ab exercitibus nris de Sulway & Werk ac aliis nris exercitibus quibuscunque nras contra proclamationes et mādanda desuper direct. Et pro omnibus actione et crimine que eis aut eorum alicui quouismodo imputari poterint Necnon pro omnibus aliis actionibus transgressionibus criminibus et offensis quibuscunqꝫ per dictas personas aut earum aliquam aliquibus temporibus retroactis usqꝫ in diem date ꝑncium cōmissis seu quomodoliz perpetratis proditoria traditione in nra persona regia Incendio murthuro mulierum raptu cōmī furto fabricatione finctione et importatione false monete in regnū nostrum dispositione eiusdem per importatores ac homicidiis per dictas personas aut earum aliquam post primū diem mensis Januarii, 1526, perpetratis tantummodo exceptis dumodo partibus conquerentibus et dampna passis taliter satisfaciant q̃ nullam super hoc decetero iustam querimoniam audiamus Et supradictos prepōitum balliuos cōitatē burgenses et eorum servitores actualiter infra dictum burgum nrm de Aberdene remanētes et inhabitantes intra terras et limites eiusdem suprascripti in genere et in specie sub firma pace et protectione nra iuste suscipiē firmiter inhibemus ne quis eis aut eorum alicui occasione dieꝫ proditoriarū remanencie more et absencie aut aliarum actionū transgressionū criminū et offensarum quarūcunqꝫ predicti malum molestiam Iniuriam seu grauamen aliquod inferre presumat Iniuste super nram plenariam forisfacturam aut mortem eis aut eorum alicui inferat sub pena amissionis vite et mēbrorum. In cuius rei testimoniū has lras nras remissionis pro toto tempore vite prefaꝫ prepōiti balliuorum cōitatis burgensium & eorum servitorum ac inhabitanciū terras et limites burgi nri antedieꝫ et cuiuslibet Iꝑorum duraturas sub nro magno sigillo sibi fieri fecimus patentes Apud Abirdene, septimo die mensis Februarii, anno 1527, et regni nri decimo quinto.”—[*Archives of the borough.*]

In September, 1529, the king was also pleased to grant his royal permission to the magistrates and council, to fortify the town with walls, and other works of defence, by the following licence:—

“James, be the grace of God, King of Scottis, To all and sundry oure Justices, Chaṃlains, Sṣreffis, Stewartis, Justice Clerkis, Crowneris, and yair Deputis, And all uȳris oure officiaris pnt & to cum, lieges and subditis quham it efferis, quhais knowlege thir our tres sal cum greting, Wit ye us to have gevin and grantit, and be thir oure tres gevis and grantis, to ye provest, ballis, counsale, and cōmunite of our burgh of Abirdene, and yair successouris, full power, fredome, faculte, and special licence, to big, joiss, brouk, have, and hald wallis, of stane and lyme, or uȳrwayis, as yai sall think maist expedient, with fortalicez, strengthis, foussis, and municionis about ye said burgh and boundis yairof, as yai sall think maist expedient, perpetualie in tyme cūing, but ony impediment, molestation, or truble to be maid to yame yairon be us or oure successouris be ony inaner of wuy in tyme to eum Notwithstanding ony lawis, actis, or statutis maid, or to be maid, in the contrair anent ye quhilkis we dispens with ye said provest, ballies, counsale, and cōmite, and yair successouris, for evir, Dischargeing you all and sundry oure Justices, Chaṃlains, Sṣreffis, Stewartis, Ballies, Justice Clerkis, & nȳis, oure officiaris pnt and to cum, and your Deputis, and all uȳis oure lieges and subditis foresaids, of all accusation, trubling, and intronetting with the saidis provest, ballies, counsale, and cōmite, yair laudis or gudis yairfore, and of your offices in yat part be thir oure

the house of Gilbert Menzies, the provost* of the town; and the master of Forbes, who is reported to have been a factious subject, was convicted by a jury, before the justiciary court, for conspiring against the life of his sovereign, and suffered on the scaffold.†

A.D. 1529.

About this time another commotion occurred, similar in its circumstances to what we have had occasion to relate; but, though equally daring and oppressive, was attended with less fatal consequences to the citizens. Lord Forbes, the chief of that name, whose principal residence was at Castle Forbes, had long been attached to the community by ties of the strictest alliance. He had been in the use of receiving from the magistrates an annual present of a ton of wine, for preserving from depredation the salmon fishings of the rivers Dee and Don. For some years the present of wine had been withheld from him, in consequence of a quarrel between his sons and some of the citizens, which had occasioned both parties to resort to the expedient of lawborrows.‡ This expedient, however, did not long preserve the peace; for his Lordship thought proper to address the magistrates by a letter, in which he demanded his wine, and, at the same time, claimed a right to a half net's salmon fishing of the river Don.§ The refusal of the magistrates to comply with these demands

K 2

tres for evir. Gevin under oure prive sele, at Edinburgh, ye thrid day of Septēber, the yeir of God ane thousand five hundreth twenty nyne yeris, and of oure reyne ye xvi yeir."

"Per signaturam manu, S. D. N.

"Regis subscriptam."

* Church Register of Births and Burials, vol. ii.

† Buchanan, b. iv. cap. 53.

‡ The legal security which one man is obliged to give, that he will not do an injury to another in his person or property. Lawborrows are obtained by a writ from the High Court of Justiciary, or Court of Session; they may also be obtained on an application to the Judge Ordinary.

§ "The answer to my Lord Forbes creddēce and writing, 20th May, 1530:—

"My Lord, we comēnd us to your Lp w² all hartlie s^vice quhom pleis wit we have sene anc writin send be your Lp to our βvest, to be schawin to us, w² certane creddence be your Lp s^vsand Robert Lumisdaill, q̄lk writins and credence we have cōsiderit and avisit w². And to ye first, quhar your Lp desirs pāmīt of ane tun of wyne it is we p̄mest your Lp ye said tunn of wyne for aȳ² causs yane your Lp credens bers, pleis your Lp gif us your band, und your Lp seill and subscrip-tionn, to causs ye blak fische be keipit in undew tyme, and to puneis ye slaars y² of be justice be our soverane Lordis aūtie q̄lk your Lp hes and sall have again, gif neid beis; and, as was promest, your

A.D. 1530. demands kindled a resentment between them, which led to an open rupture. Hostilities, on the part of the indignant baron, were now expected; and the citizens adopted the necessary measures of defence. Meanwhile his adherents, John Forbes of Pitsligo, Arthur Forbes of Brux, and a great number of their confederates, invaded the town on the 30th of July, this year. The citizens flew to arms, and a desperate conflict ensued between them. The assailants, after some bloodshed, being overpowered, were forced to seek refuge in the Grey Friars place, where they were, for some time, closely besieged; but, being completely vanquished, they were afterwards allowed to depart. In this broil, one of the Forbeses and several of the citizens were killed, and many on both sides were severely wounded. Mutual lawborrows were now resorted to; and the citizens, Lord Forbes, and his confederates, were bound over to keep the peace, under very heavy penalties. This, however, did not wholly terminate those barbarous disturbances: the parties mutually recriminated: the magistrates complained to the king and the lords of the council; and the Forbeses brought a criminal action before the justiciary court, against the citizens. On the 17th of August subsequent, the provost, four of his sons, and nineteen of the citizens, were arraigned, in the high court of justiciary, at Linlithgow, on an indictment "at the instance of Alexander, son and heir of the laird of
of

Lp sall have our band, q̃lk is liand in o² clerk's hands, to ye tyme your Lp band cum to yis effect, as was comōnd. That beand done, your Lp sall have o² said band, and thākfull pāmēt yeirlie, sa lang as your Lp keipis us your band to that effect. My Lord, quhar your Lp desirs yis wyne for ane titill ye have to ane half nets fisching of Done, my Lord, in guid fait we kene no² yat ev² your Lp had ony titill or ryt y^{to}, and as for us, we ar o² small men to hald ony thing fra your Lp ye have ryt to; and for us, we will nev² gif your Lp ony thing for ony tytill or ryt your Lp hes to ony watt² amang us. And quhar your Lp desirs us to be kind to your Lp, as ye have been to us in tymiss bigaie, my Lord, we thank your Lp of kyndness begane, and prayis your Lp to p̃seve² in tyme cūing, for we sall ever dess̃ve ye sanȳ At your Lp be Goddis grace, quhom have your Lp in keiping, at your maist nobil harts desire. Gf Abird, ye xx day of May."—[*Council Register*, vol. xii. 817.]

In the year 1521, John, Lord Forbes, first commenced offensive operations against the town and community, by using every expedient to interrupt and destroy the salmon fishings of the rivers Dee and Don. He, on one occasion, invaded the town with his confederates; and the provost was obliged, for his defence, to have recourse to fortifying his house with artillery.—[*Council Register*, vol. x. p. 235.]

of Brux, for convocating the king's lieges, to the number of five hundred; for driving him to the Friar's place, when he happened to be in the town, with only *five* persons; for confining them there twenty-four hours; for being art and part in slaying his servant, wounding some of his friends, and for robbery of his horses." This crimination was neither correct, nor, indeed, very consistent with the fact; and accordingly the result of the trial which ensued was favourable for the provost and his friends, the jury having returned a verdict of acquittal.* The spirit of revenge, however, was still predominant in these fierce barons. Indignant at their former defeat, and impatient of the issue of the present trial, they were incited more and more to seek an opportunity to wreak their vengeance upon the citizens, as well as upon Alexander Fraser of Philorth, who, it appears, had afforded them his assistance. It, therefore, became necessary to put the town in a proper posture of defence, by planting artillery at the ports, and arming the citizens. At the same time, the magistrates
having

* "Robertus bartoñne de ouir bartoñne justiciarius ac thesaurarius Suþmi Dñi nostri rēg^o uniūsis et singulis ad quorū noticias pñtes tre pvenerint salutem noverit^o q^o comparai corā nobis in curia justiciarie suþmi Dño nostri reg^o tenē et inchoat apud burgum de Linlithgw die mēcurie decimo septimo die mēfis Augusti, anno Dñi m^o quīgentesimo trigesimo Gilbertus Mēzies, ppositus de Aberdene, Thomas Mēzies, Alexander Mēzies, Andreas Mēzies, David Mēzies, filii dicti Gilberti Mēzies, Georgius Leslie, Johannes Cunīnghame, Alex^o Birss, Alex^o Nicholonn, Johannes Wod, David Harot, junior, Alexander Mēzies, frat² dicti Gilberti Mēzies, Wilhelmus Walcar, Johannes Andsonn, Jacobus Andsonn, filius David Andsonn, Alex^o Andsonn, frat² dicti David^o Andsonn, Georgius Bissat, Robertus Edindiancht, Johannes Webstar, alias Jamesonn, Johannes Crystisonn, Thomas Hunter, David Andsonn, W^o Kemp, et Alex^o Bissat, indictati et p rotulos regis calumpniati de arte et pte cōvocationis ligiorū suþmi Dñi nostri reg^o ad numerū quīgentarū psonarū ex p cogitata felonia venieñ sup Alex^o Forbes, filium et heredem apparentem Dñi de Brux die Sabbati penultimo die mēfis Juliū ul^o elaps^o in villam de Aberdene ubi dictus Alex^o Forbes sol^o cū quīq^o psonis existabat et eum fugando ad loeum frat² Et ibidem ipm p spatiū xxiiii horarū obsidiando Item de arte et parte crudelis inffectionis quondam Wiñmi Mur^o fñito² dicti Alexandri Item de arte et parte demembrationis Wiñmi Forbes sui brachii Item de arte et parte demēbrationis et mutilationis dicti Alexandri Forbes sui digiti Item de arte et parte demēbrationis et mutilationis Wiñmi Forbes suorū duorū digitorū tempore sup ex p̄cogitata felonia cōmis^o Item de arte et parte rapine equorū dicti Alexandri Forbes Eodem tempe quasquid calumpnias pfate psone in facie judicii omnino denegarunt et p cōdignam assisam quieti facti fuerunt p nitus et imunes Et hoc eibus quorū infest notū tēam^o p pñtes. In cuius rei testimoniu sigillum officii justiciarii suþmi Dñi nostri regis pñtib^{us} est appensum año mēse die et loco sup dict^o."

A.D. 1530. having applied to the lords of the council for legal protection, law-borrows were issued against Lord Forbes, and his kinsmen. On the 12th of December, his Lordship put in, to the lords of the council, at Perth, his bond, by which he became bound, for himself and his sons, that the magistrates, the citizens, and Philorth, should be kept harmless at their hands, under the penalty of L.5000, to be forfeited and paid to the king. After this, tranquillity between the citizens and the Forbeses appears to have been established. Some years afterwards, Lord Forbes and the community came to a more friendly understanding, being mutually disposed to restore the relations of peace and amity, which had formerly subsisted between them. The magistrates and town council* agreed to allow him the usual present of wine, on condition of his preserving the salmon in the rivers from depredation, either with nets, cobles, or spears, in "raid time."† His son, John, Lord Forbes, on his erecting a lodging in the town, was furnished with wood, to the value of 100 merks, by an order of the council, as a small recompense for the like good offices; and afterwards he received a present of L.100,‡ on the same account.

1537. King James himself had often experienced the exorbitant power of the nobles; and, in imitation of his royal predecessors, he attempted to humble them by every means in his power. The repeated checks which the citizens had given to these factious and turbulent barons were by no means displeasing to the king; for, on the 30th of September, this year, he addressed the magistrates, from Old Aberdeen, by a letter,§ under his own signature, in

* 20th December, 1547.

† The time of spawning.

‡ Equal to L.31 5s. sterling.

§ " REX.

" Trest freindis we greyt Zow hartly weyll, for samekil as we haf gart oppin to Zou zisf^{er}day yat we wald our burcht of Aberdene was in quyete & rest, but oppressioun or misordour, and ye comound gud werteously spedit, and now is ye tyme of chesing of Zour officiars, quharfor it is our wyll ye joyss & bruk siclik p^{ro}valegis & fredomis as ūdis our borrowis, and gewis Zew leyff to cheyss siclik p^{ro}sonis as are abill & cōvenient, be Zour comōn consent, as uss is And yat ar abill to minust² in ye officis be doying of justice and wertewis using of Zour comōnn gud And as will āsur y²for, for we wyll Ze leif in liberty & fredome, like burges men, but ourthrawing of outmen or gryt

in which he gave them permission to elect such persons as were qualified for the offices in the council, with common consent, as the practice had been: at the same time, concluding, "that he wished them to live in liberty and freedom, like burgesses, and to oppose landed men, or barons;" and in so doing, they were to keep his letter for their authority. In this year he had met with a severe affliction, by the death of his two only sons, the Princes James and Arthur, in one day; a calamity which so deeply affected him, that he never recovered his former cheerfulness; and he sometimes sunk into dejection. In order to divert his melancholy, he made a progress with the queen, into the north, attended by the court. They visited Aberdeen, where they remained for fifteen days; and the magistrates, the clergy, and the professors of King's College, paid the greatest attention to their majesties, and nothing was neglected which could contribute towards their amusement.*

In this age, few kingdoms possessed maritime power; and in Scotland it was very little known. Ships for warfare were generally fitted out, on an emergency, by the royal boroughs on the sea coast, or were provided by individuals, for hire. In the year 1475 mention occurs of three ships having been fitted out by Aberdeen, for the service of the king, at the expence of the community. In this year, about the time of the king's visit, the town fitted out a ship, which was furnished with guns, culverines, ammunition, and other warlike stores, at the expence of L.565.† She was manned with twenty-four young mariners belonging to the town, and proceeded to join the Scottish squadron in the Frith of Forth. The magistrates agreed to pay to the owners of the vessel the same rate of hire which the town of Dundee had engaged to pay for the ship fitted out by it, for the same purpose;‡ but the quantum of hire is not mentioned, nor does it

þsonis, keþand zis for Zour warrand. Subscrywit be us at Ald Aþdene, ye last day of September, and of our regine ye xxv Zeyris, ⁊ Zeir of God ane thousand fyv hundre² threty and sewin Zeir."

"JAMES R."

Council Register, vol. xv. p. 415.

* Leslie, p. 451. † Equal to about L.176 11s. 3d. sterling.

‡ Council Register, vol. xvi. p. 508. 514, 525.

A.D. 1510. it appear for what expedition this fleet was intended. There being at this time peace between the two nations, it is probable that the ship formed part of a squadron which was intended to convoy the King to England, for a proposed interview between him and King Henry VIII. his uncle, regarding the reformation of religion, which was now in agitation, and for some other matters of state. The interview, however, between the two sovereigns did not take place, having been prevented, on the part of James, by the interference of his clergy.*

About this period a very singular race of people, who were distinct in character, customs, and language, from the other inhabitants, made its appearance at Aberdeen. They were called Gipsies, or Egyptians, and wandered through the country under the command of the famous John Faw, who was distinguished by the title of Lord or Earl of Little Egypt, and was recognised in this character by King James V. in the celebrated writ of privy seal, passed in the 28th year of his reign. The earliest notice which we have discovered of these people occurs in 1527, when a number of them,† under Eiken Jaks, as their leader, found their way to Aberdeen, probably soon after they had entered Scotland. They remained in the town for some time, but being impeached for stealing two silver spoons from one of the citizens, they took their departure. John Faw, his brother George, and their company, fixed their residence in the town for some considerable time. Their chief occupation was palmistry; although they occasionally employed themselves in some rude handicraft, or as tinkers. They, however, became so audacious, and so very turbulent, that it was at length found necessary to banish them from the town: but the Earl, his wife, and sister, were excepted from this act of proscription.‡

In

* Henry, vol. xi. p. 519.

† Council Register, vol. xii. p. 257.

‡ Trial of Barbara Dya Baptista and Helen Andree, for stealing 24 merks of money from Andrew Chalmers, in Wester Fintray:—

“Curia ballivorū burgi de Abirdene ten^r in pretorio eiusdem xxii die mens^{is} Januārij, anno mille^{mo} quige^{mo} quadrāmo per honōles viros Thomā Mēzies, prepō, David Andsone Mağrm, Jōnē Gordonne, et Aleξrm Ruğfurd, ballivos cōiūctim et diuim pro tribunali sedeñ.

“The

In the course of this year the community was alarmed by the rumour of a war with England, which rendered it necessary to adopt
 I. measures

“ The said day, in ye actionn and caus movit be Andro Chalmer, in Westar Fintra, upon Barbara Dya Baptista and Helen Andree, ȝ complices to ye nouȝ of ten psonis, frends and fvands to erle George callit of egipt, makand mētionn that in ye monyȝ of October last bypast come to his houȝs in Westir Fintra, and yair thiftuisly staw and tuik fra him out of his kyst, in his chalmer, ye sowm of twēty four m̄ks money of ye realme, and will mak him na restitutionn ȝ² of wy²out yai be cōpellit.

Nōia Assise.

Patrick Forbes
 Duncā Mar
 Walter Cullā
 Maist^r Jōn. Fref^s
 Gilbert Fref^s

Walter Hay
 Andrō Crawford, young²
 Andw̄ Durtty
 Alex. Nicholsons
 Alex. Forbes

David Mēzics
 Johnne Rattre
 Henry Collisone
 Thomas Hay
 Williā Carnis

“ The sayd day Barbara Baptista and Helen Andree, egiptians, war accusit in jugmēt be ye prowest for ye wrangous waytaking of xxiiii m̄k money of Scotland fra Androw Chalmer in Wes^t Fyntra, out of his kyst, quilk yai denyit be George Faw, yair capitane, and forspeikar & Mais^t Thōas Añand, ȝ² procuratour And yairefter, w² cōsent of baȝt ye said partiis, ye said action was put to ye decisione & knowlege of ye assyss aboun wrytine, q̄lk was chosin & sworne in jugment ī pūs of ptiis, & admyttit be yai furtht of court remowit & at lyntht awysit wytht ye depōnis of ye wytnes producit be ye said Andrō Chal^m, enfit in court, fand & deliūit, all in ane voce, yat ye said Andrō Chalmer hed failit in his preyf twyching waytaking of ye forsaid money, & maid ye said Barbara & Helene, epiptians, forsaid, quyt of ye clame of ye same claimit at yai be ye said Andrō And dyschagit yai yairof be ye hail assyss forsaid. And ye said egiptianis protestit for ȝ expēȝs agains ye said Aō Chal^m & desyrit cau² of the said Aō to aȝs² at ȝ² istans as law will q̄lk fand Jōn Chalmer cau² to Alex. Kay, officiar.

“ The said day Alex. Chal^m, procurator for ye said Andrō Chal^m, protestit for tȝ & place to persew ye laif of ye egiptianis for ye said money, & tuk not y² ye said Barbara and Helene allañly ar made quyt of ye said clañ as he he alleg^o.

“ The said day Mais^t Thomas Añand, p̄cuȝ for ye egiptianis, and George Faw, yair capitaine, requirit Androw Chal^m in jugmēt to nayme or nott samony of yair company as he wes plēteus on for ye thiftouss waytaking of his money, quhilk acceptit allañlie at yat tyme bot twa, yat is to say, Barbara Dya Baptista & Helen Andree, & ye forsaid p² ptetit ȝt he sald hef na place in tȝ cūing to psew nane of ye company, becaus yai war all p̄nt in jugmēt.”

George and John Faws were tried before the baillies, 28th January, 1540, and convicted by a jury for wounding Alex. Barron to the effusion of his blood. They were ordered to pay the barber for leeching him, and fined a crown of the sun for the amends of blood. Katharine Autarene was convicted, and ordered to be pilloried in the Goffis till six o'clock at night, for stealing two pecks of green bear, 6th March, 1540.—[*Council Register*, vol. xvi. p. 699. 708. 736. 748.]

A.D. 1542. measures for putting the town in a posture of defence. Guards of the citizens were placed on the ports; and the entrance to the harbour was secured by a boom, composed of masts and iron chains, thrown across the bar, to prevent an attack from the sea. Aberdeen was, about the same time, required to furnish its quota of men for the expedition which was fitted out by King James V. for the invasion of England. One hundred citizens were accordingly selected, properly equipped, at the expence of the community, and marched to the borders, where they joined the Scottish army, which met with a disgraceful defeat, near Solway frith, from the English, under the command of Lord Wharton, warden of the marches.* The shock of this disaster, and the disaffection of the nobility, so deeply affected the king, and preyed upon his mind, that he found himself unable to support the affliction. He took to his bed, and, after languishing for some days, expired on the 13th December.†

1544. In the summer of this year a fleet and an army had been sent, by the King of England, under the Earl of Hertford, to invade Scotland. The troops disembarked near Leith, after some little opposition, and Edinburgh was soon occupied by the English. This naturally occasioned a considerable degree of alarm in the country; and, although every preparation had been made by the magistrates for the defence of the town, yet many of the inhabitants fled from it. The Earl of Huntly, who was at this time lord lieutenant of the north, was greatly incensed against the magistrates, for permitting the citizens to desert the place; and imputed to them much blame for not providing due means for its defence.‡ He assumed the management and direction of the civil and the military affairs of the town, and appointed four of the citizens to conduct them, under his authority.

These gipsies do not appear to have made their residence in the town, at any future period. But, for time immemorial, a horde of vagrants of the same description had their occasional residence in the west skirts of the town, where they continued till near the close of the 18th century. They were known by the surnames of Gray and Young. Their winter occupation was principally manufacturing horn spoons; and, in the summer time, they wandered through the country as tinkers and sorners.

* Council Register, vol. xvii. p. 306.

† Dr. Robertson's History, vol. i. p. 276, 277.

‡ Council Register, vol. xviii. p. 180. 329. 533. 539. vol. xix. 214.

authority. He acquired the complete ascendant over the commu- A.D. 1515.
nity; but he did not exercise it with moderation. He required the town to furnish one hundred men, properly equipped, and provided with twenty days provisions, to join the army in the north, which was advancing to oppose Donald, Lord of the Isles, who, taking advantage of the distressed situation of the country, was, at this time, threatening an invasion of the earldom of Ross. The citizens remonstrated to the Regent against this requisition;* but whether they obtained any redress does not appear. In the following month of January the Earl of Huntly was elected provost, on the resignation of Thomas Menzies of Pitfoddels, who was nominated his deputy. At the subsequent Michaelmas, being re-elected provost, the power of nominating the town council for the ensuing year was, at the same time, conferred upon him; and, in the following year, he was continued in the office. This is the only instance of a nobleman having been appointed chief magistrate of Aberdeen.

In the month of September, this year, Scotland was invaded by 1547.
the English, under the command of the Duke of Somerset. Mercenary troops and standing armies being yet unknown, Aberdeen was required to furnish its complement of men, from the citizens, for the Scottish army. A considerable number of them accordingly marched from the town, as volunteers, with a piece of artillery denominated the great falconne, procured from Irvine of Drum. They joined the queen's forces at Falamuir, under the command of the Regent, Earl of Arran; but few of the citizens returned from the fatal battle of Pinkey, in which 10,000 of the Scots are said to have fallen.† After
L 2 this

* Council Register, vol. xviii. p. 351.

† The following citizens fell in the battle of Pinkey, 10th September, 1547:—

Andrew Menzies*	William Anderson	William Rolland, younger
Robert Cullen*	Robert Arthur	James Ardess
Walter Cullen	John Lamb	Gilbert Nicolson
Alex. Gray*	Alex. Fraser*	Mr. James Torrie
Thomas Sherar	William Rolland, elder	James Anderson

John

* Members of the Town Council.

A.D. 1517. this calamitous event the greater part of the kingdom was in the occupation of the English ; and by the victory which they had obtained, the subjection of Scotland was threatened. It was, therefore, judged necessary to make some preparations for the defence of the town, in case of invasion from the sea. Four pieces of artillery, with two chambers, were purchased ; of which a Dutchman was appointed gunner, and the provost, and David Anderson, baillie, were named masters of artillery. A blockhouse of earth was constructed on the Cunningairhills, which commanded the mouth of the river Don ; and the trenches and breast work, which had been formed many years before, along the links, were again put in a defensible state.* Meanwhile the citizens were armed, and prohibited from leaving the town without special permission. These operations were attended with considerable expence to the community ; and no sooner were they accomplished, than the town was called upon to contribute

1548. L.300† to government, in lieu of service in the army, now assembled at Gladsmuir. Sometime afterwards, eighty pioneers were required

1549. for the siege of Broughty Castle, with pay and provisions for one month. On the peace having taken place between the two nations, the magistrates and town council expressed their concurrence to the treaty, by causing affix to it the town's common seal, which was trans-

1550. mitted to Edinburgh by Gilbert Menzies, younger, for that special purpose.‡

In the year 1543, James Hamilton, Earl of Arran, had been appointed, by the nobles, Regent of the kingdom ; and their choice met with the entire approbation of the community of Aberdeen, which was communicated to the Regent by Thomas Menzies, at that time provost

John Knowles
John Mollison
Thomas Hay, elder
John Setton
William Menzies

Mr. John Gordon
Henry Duthie
Robert Rattrie
Thomas Paton
Robert Wellis

Duncan Gad
James Preston
James Findlay
Alex. Forbes
In all 29.

Register of Births and Burials, &c. vol. i.

* Council Register, vol. xix. p. 391. 393.

† About L.93 15s. sterling.

‡ Guildry Accounts for 1550.

vost of the town, and comptroller to the Queen. The citizens at the same time resolved, not only to support the Regent in his authority, but to oppose all those who might attempt to conspire against him.* A.D. 1550.
 On the 24th of November, this year, he made his first visit to the town, and was received by the magistrates with the greatest marks of respect and attention. They presented to him a propine, in wine, wax, and spiceries, to the value of 100 merks.† In the month of May, this year, he made another visit, along with Mary, queen dowager, accompanied with many of the nobility, on the occasion of the justice court. They were received with the usual ceremonies, and had presented to them, by the magistrates, suitable propines.‡ 1552.
 While they remained in the town, nothing was neglected, on the part of the citizens, which could contribute to their amusement, as was customary in these times. In the month of August, this year, 1556.
 the queen dowager, now Regent of the kingdom, visited the town at the time of holding the justice court. She was accompanied by Monsieur D'Oysel, the commander of the French troops in Scotland; and the magistrates, on this occasion, made them liberal presents in wine, wax, and spiceries.§ These means of propitiation, however, did not prevent the queen from exacting 320 merks|| from the community, as a composition for *by-past slight offences*, for *small oppressions*, and *in order to win her favour*.¶ In those times, compositions or mitigations from the people, for pretended offences, or to obtain acts of grace at the hands of the prince, were not uncommon; and, under the terror of the justice court, the regular payment of such fines as the sovereign power, for the time, thought proper to impose, was rigorously enforced.

* Council Register, vol. xvii. p. 576.

† Ibid. vol. xx. p. 496.

‡ The Regent's propine consisted of three tons of wine, and two lasts of beer, with spiceries.—The Queen received two tons of wine; with wax and spiceries, to the value of 20 merks.—The Lords Componitors received a ton of wine, and half a last of beer.—[*Council Register*, vol. xxi. p. 160.]

§ She received wine, spice, and wax, to the value of 263 merks, about L.48 10s. 10d. sterling; Monsieur D'Oysel, half a ton of wine, a dozen of torches, two dozens of boists of scorchets; the Lords Componitors, one ton of wine; and the Lord Justice Clerk, one puncheon of wine.—[*Council Register*, vol. xxii. p. 325. 397.]

|| About L.56 6s. sterling money.

¶ Council Register, vol. xxii. p. 425.

MISCELLANEOUS OCCURRENCES, &c. IN ABERDEEN,

FROM THE YEAR 1398 TO THE YEAR 1559.

- 1401 The pestilence in Aberdeen.
- 1408 Fifty pounds borrowed by the Baillics, for the use of the town, from five citizens; to be repaid in five years, at the rate of 32 merks yearly.
- 1433 The Alderman, or Chief Magistrate, assumed the title of Provost.
- 1439 The Earl of Mar admitted burgess of guild, on payment of 5s. in a white purse.
- 1441 Two hundred and twenty pounds, due by the town to the Earl of Huntly, ordered to be paid from the rents of the salmon fishings.
- 1442 A ship belonging to Aberdeen, called the Holy Cross, taken by the English, and reprisals made by detaining an English ship in the harbour.
- Contribution of L.80 made by the town for King James II.'s daughter, Elizabeth, in Brittany.
- 1477 The Quire of St. Nicholas Church begun to be erected.
- 1479 Alex. Coutis appointed public Scavenger, and allowed one penny annually from each fire house, for repairing the streets, and keeping them clean.
- 1484 The citizens march to the siege of Berwick.
- 1498 } Pestilence raged in the town during these respective years.
1506 }
- 1507 Commissioners sent from the town to the staple at Middleburgh.
- 1509 One hundred and fifty-three common Brewers, at this time, in the town.
- 1510 There being a great scarcity of corn in the country, the following quantities of grain were imported, by the magistrates, at the after-mentioned prices:—83 bolls of rye, at 10s. per boll, L.41 10s.; 11 bolls of mashlaw, at L.6; one boll of rye meal, 12s.
- 1514 The pestilence raging in the town.
- 1518 The Earl of Huntly received from the town three pieces of the best artillery, with stores, lead, and ammunition, for the siege of Dunrobin Castle.
- 1513 The Provost and Sir John Rutherford repair, as Commissioners, to Parliament, with ten horses in their train, and allowed 40 merks for their expences.
- 1515 The town's public seal sent to Edinburgh, to seal the doom of forfeiture of Alex. Lord Home.
- 1522 The Quire of Saint Nicholas consecrated by the Bishop of Aberdeen.
- 1529 The lodging belonging to Gilbert Menzies, provost, burnt to the ground by an accidental fire.
- 1530 The pestilence raging in the town.
- 1531 Thomas Menzies allowed to officiate as Provost, in absence of his father, Gilbert Menzies, Provost.
- 1538 The pestilence raged in the town.
- 1539 The infection of the Botch broke out among the inhabitants.
- The artillery belonging to the town lent to Patrick, Earl of Bothwell.
- 1541 Ship belonging to Thomas Brechin lost at Scarborough, on the coast of England, with 28 persons on board, citizens of Aberdeen, all of whom perished.
- 1544 The artillery belonging to the town, consisting of a falcon, kilis piece, bolis piece, and three serpentines, with ten chambers, and wheel carriages, lent to the Earl of Huntly, Lord Lieutenant of the North.
- 1546 } The pestilence raged in the town during these respective years.
1549 }
- 1557 The Magistrates purchased the following pieces of artillery for the defence of the town:—
Two ringed dogs, two great yeatlings, the great falcon of the Laird of Drum, an English half slung, five cut-throats, for the sum of L.100; six half slungs, with twelve chambers, at L.120; four half slungs, and one keel piece, having two chambers.

CHAPTER III.

SECTION II.

Civil government of the Borough—Ancient Elections of the Magistrates and Town Council—Ancient Patrimony—Lands of Old Cruives annexed—Municipal Laws—Commerce—Coinage—Customs—Miracle Plays—Secular Amusements, conducted by the Abbot and Prior of Bon-Accord—Religious and Secular Plays, by the Artificers—Religious Ceremonies—Minstrels—Games—Town's Clocks—the Plague, and other diseases—Weaponshay—Dress, Armour, and Furniture—Surnames—Population—Tables of Contributions to the State—Rental of Lands, &c.—Prices of Provisions.

FROM A. D. 1398 TO A. D. 1552.

BEFORE proceeding further in the narrative of public events, it may not be improper to make a pause, in order to trace the progress of the political government of Aberdeen; to take a retrospective view of those matters which are strictly local; and to offer some sketches of the customs and manners of the people, during this æra, which may be regarded as not the least important parts of a work of this kind. We have already had occasion to observe, that the administration of the public affairs of the town had, from a remote period, been vested in a definite number of magistrates, namely the alderman, and four baillies, who were annually elected. The earliest records of the proceedings of the magistrates and town council commence in the year 1398. From these it appears, that on the first Monday posterior to Michaelmas, of this year, the election of the magistrates took place, in the court of the baillies, "*with the consent and assent of the whole community of the borough.*"* In the subsequent year a similar election

* Council Register, vol. i. p. 1.

tion was conducted on the same day; and in the minutes of sederunt, twenty citizens are mentioned as having been chosen members of the common council. On the same occasion certain committees were also appointed, for regulating the market of flesh, of wine, and of ale, and for the other municipal affairs of the town. The same day was annually appropriated for the election, and continued to be so until the latter end of the sixteenth century, when it was changed to Wednesday immediately preceding Michaelmas, which is the day observed at the present time. In the year 1469 an act of parliament was passed, ordaining the old council annually to choose the new, and both together to elect the alderman, baillies, dean of guild, and other office-bearers; but, as the annual election continued still to be conducted with the consent and assent of the community, it does not appear that this statute was much regarded. At Michaelmas, 1479, however, in consequence of a letter from the king, addressed to the magistrates, the old council proceeded to the annual election, in conformity to the statute, by nominating the new council, and both councils, jointly, elected the office-bearers, as had been enjoined by the king.* This form of rule continued to be strictly observed in all future elections, although there is nothing mentioned in the minutes of the subsequent elections to distinguish the latter mode from the former; the strain of the minutes of sederunt being, in both cases, pretty much the same.† The provost and baillies had not only a minis-

* Council Register, vol. vi. p. 603.

† In the year 1783 a question began to be agitated by the burgesses of the royal boroughs of Scotland, concerning the administration of the funds of their respective corporations, and the mode of electing the magistrates and town councils. The burgesses complained loudly of the political constitution being corrupt, and requiring reformation. The system was represented by them as a bad one, inconsistent with the liberty and the true interests of the community, in so far as it afforded a plenitude of power, which, in a small number, independent of the body of the people, was, from the nature of man, liable to abuse.‡ This became the subject of a parliamentary enquiry, which depended for several years; but as parliament in its wisdom did not see the propriety of changing or altering the system, matters were allowed to drop.

In the course of this popular question, it appears to have been strongly urged, on the part of the burgesses, that the uniform practice of Aberdeen, from 1398 down to the year 1592, had been, that the provost, baillies, common serjeants, and town council, were elected annually by the *suffrages* of

‡ The letters of Civis and Zeno, on this topic, were wrote with much spirit and elegance.

ministerial duty to perform, but they also sat and administered justice in the courts of the borough. They heard and decided all con-

M

troversies

all the burgesses, assembled in their head court. In order to ascertain this point, which appears to have been the subject of much controversy between the burgesses and their adversaries, at the time, we have been at considerable pains, in the course of our researches, to investigate the records from the earliest period; but we have been unable to discover any thing having a resemblance to a popular election, or an election by the *suffrages* of the burgesses. It is not, however, our province to become a controvertist on either side. We shall merely state the facts and circumstances which occurred in the course of our enquiry, leaving it to those more immediately interested to draw the inference. In a former part of this work we have already traced the origin of the constitution of the borough from a remote period. The earliest election of the magistrates and office-bearers occurs in the year 1398,* but it is not so complete as that in the subsequent year. In the year 1405 the

* THE ACT OF ELECTION, 1398.

"Processus curiarum Ballivorum isti sunt qui incipiunt die lune proximo post festum beati Michaelis Archangeli, anno 1398. Quo die Willielmus de Camera pater, cum consensu et assensu totius communitatis dicti burgi, electus est in officium Aldermanni, Et Robertus filius Davidis, Simon de Benyn, Johannes Scherar, ac Magister Willielmus Dicson, electi sunt in officium Ballivorum. Ac Mauricius filius Roberti, Johannes filius Bricii, Walterus Rde, et Simon de Camera, electi sunt in officium Serjandorum.

Appretiatores Carnium	{	Johannes Sprout	||	Gustatores	{	Vioi	{	Simon Lamb
		Gilbertus Kyngude				Johannes Dors		
		Adam Thome				Johannes Gilbertus		
		Thomas Scherar				Haynkyn de Deir		
						Simon Bayard		
					Cervisie	{	Adam Codlyn	
						Alanus Smyth		
						Willielmus filius Adame		
						Robertus Hesillhede		

Council Register, vol. i. p. 1.

THE ACT OF ELECTION, 1399.

"Liber Communitatis burgi de Aberdene est iste qui incipit die lune proximo post festum beati Michaelis Archangeli, anno domini 1399. Quo die electus fuit Adam de Benyn, cum consensu et assensu totius communitatis dicti burgi in officium Aldermanni, Et Willielmus Blynsele, Simon de Benyn, Johannes Wormot, et Johannes filius Thome, electi sunt in officium Ballivorum. Et Mauricius filius Roberti, Donaldus Ka, Fergusius filius Adame, et Johannes de Lucris, electi sunt in officium Serjandorum. Eodem die electi sunt in communes consiliarios dicti burgi:—

Willielmus de Camera, pater	Johannes de Ledale	Willielmus de Crag
Laurencius de Leth	David de Scrogs	Simon Lamb
Willielmus de Camera, filius	Johannes Scherar	Ricardus de Lunan
Alexander Bannerman	Robertus, filius Davidis	Willielmus Borthwyk
Thomas Spryng	Johannes Lotton	Johannes Strang
Willielmus Andree	Hugo Aberburthnot	Ricardus Ficht
Johannes Andree	Johannes Rutherford	

Lincatores.

troversies which occurred among the citizens, whom they were entitled to *repledge*, from the county court, and from the consistory of the bishop.

election is merely mentioned as having taken place in the court of the baillies;† but the acts and minutes of these elections do not mention who were present, or who were the electors. In 1435, the *præpositus* was elected, “per commune consilium, et confratres gildæ.”‡ In the year 1474 his election was in “curia capitali tenta in prætorio per ballivos.”§ In 1523, the election is mentioned simply to have taken place “in curia capitalis ballivorum.”|| In the year 1538, 30th September, the *præpositus* was elected “expressu consensu voce et voto omnium burgensium ejusdem burgi.”— On the same day, the baillies were elected in the like form and manner; and, on the 4th of October following, the council, the committees, and the office-bearers, were merely named “in curia gildæ ballivorum;”¶ but the names of the burgesses absent on this day are only mentioned. In 1580 the record mentions that the “*præpositus* Gilbertus Menzies de Pitfoddels electus fuit de comunne omnium comburgensium consensu et assensu unanimo voto absque contradictione.”** The minutes of the intermediate elections all run pretty much in the same style. In many years the election of the provost and baillies took place on one day; and the council and the office-bearers were named on a posterior day. In no instance, however, is there any mention of the election of the magistrates and town council having been made by the *suffrages* of the burgesses, the whole business being conducted, as it would seem, in the open court, *nemine contradicenti*.

With regard to the administration of the funds of the corporation, it appears, that this was committed solely to the magistrates and council, in office, for the time. The state officer, called the Chamberlain of Scotland, in ancient times had a superintendency over the royal boroughs, and occasionally held itinerant courts, called *Iter. Camerarii*, for enquiring into the management of their revenues, reviewing the judicial proceedings of the judges in their courts; and even judging, in the first instance, in controversies arising among the inhabitants.

The office of Chamberlain appears to have originated in the time of Malcolm II. his salary being fixed at L.200; which was paid out of the escheats, fines, tolls, and customs, accruing to the king

*Lineatores.**
Johannes Tulach
Willielmus Sprout
Johannes Sprout
Adam Strathclyn
Johannes Lambynton
Willielmus Spaldyng
Gilbertus de Kynros
Robertus de Arnaeh
Willielmus Baxter Mykyl
Mauricius Swordslip
Magister Johannes Wrycht

Gustatores Vini.
Gaufredus de Stanifru
Johannes Hervy

Gustatores Cervicie.
Adam Wrycht
Alanus Smyth
Johannes Christini
Robertus Baxter
Simon Bayard
Adam Cudlyn

Depositores.
Johannes, filius Andree
Johannes Rutherford

Magistri Ecclesie.
David de Scrogs
Willielmus Blyndsele
Johannes Scherar
Johannes Sprout

Appretiatores Carnium.
Thomas Lamb, yluog
Johannes Yhule
Patricius Club
Johannes Lambynton

* *Leges Burgorum*, cap. 102.—Council Register, vol. i. p. 71.

† Council Register, vol. i. p. 262.

‡ *Ibid.* vol. iv. p. 43.

§ *Ibid.* vol. vi. p. 311.

¶ Council Register, vol. xi. p. 353. 356.

¶ *Ibid.* vol. xvi. p. 1, 2, 8.

** *Ibid.* vol. xxx. p. 200.

bishop.* For several centuries, questions of a civil nature were generally determined by a verdict of citizens. The punishment of delinquents, however trivial the offence might have been, could not be inflicted, until, after a solemn trial, the jury had returned a verdict of guilt. This practice was not in disuse for several years after the institution of the college of justice, in the subsequent century. Besides these rights of jurisdiction, the magistrates and town council possessed the authority of establishing, for the welfare of the citizens, and for the regulation of trade, municipal laws, which met with prompt and full obedience. § They regulated the prices of commodities which were imported or manufactured, and sold within the town. When assembled with the citizens, they imposed, by mutual consent, taxes or duties, for the support of the borough, or for the exigencies of the sovereign: and this being regarded as equivalent to an act of the legislature, entitled them to enforce payment of such taxes. In these assemblies matters appear to have been conducted with unanimity and dispatch; and, till after the middle of the sixteenth century, when the community had been bereft of all its ancient patrimony.

M 2

from those boroughs, over which he exercised a particular jurisdiction.† In the course of the 15th and 16th centuries, the community often experienced considerable hardships from the frequency of the Chamberlain's visits. But, in the year 1512, the sum of L.500 was raised, by an assessment on the inhabitants, and paid to the crown, for relieving Aberdeen from the Chamberlain's courts and the Justice Eyres.‡ After which period the Chamberlain's court was abolished in Aberdeen.

* A forensic term, signifying to recall a person from the jurisdiction of one court to that of another. In the end of the 17th century this occasioned a keen contest between the magistrates and the sheriff of the county; after which period the privilege went into disuse. So tenacious were the magistrates of their extensive privileges of jurisdiction, that, in the year 1536, the bishop's baillie found it necessary to solicit their licence to hang a thief, convicted in the bishop's court.—[*Council Register*, vol. xv. p. 291.]

§ The following municipal laws were established in the year 1405:—"That any person cited to the head court, to the courts of the alderman, or borough court, and not appearing, (unless having a lawful excuse) shall forfeit 4d. without remission.—Any person striking another, with a sword, hanger, cutlass, or baton, 8d.—For reviling any one within the borough, by lying, or hurting his good name, 2s.—For buying or selling goods on Sundays, 10s.—For reviling the alderman, baillies, or king's officers: for the first transgression, the offender shall kiss the eavesdrop; for the second, he shall be put under the eavesdrop, and pelted with filth and dirt; and for the third, to be banished the borough for a year and a day."—[*Council Register*, vol. i. p. 261.]

† *Regiam Majestatem*, p. 3.

‡ *Council Register*, vol. ix. p. 98. 101.

mony, in the manner which will be afterwards mentioned, we find no instance of any opposition being formed against the magistrates, in any measures which appeared to them to be for the benefit of the community. In order to account for this, we shall borrow the language of the learned historian :—" The genius of the feudal government, uniform in all its operations, produced the same effects in small as in great societies ; and the territory of a royal borough was, in miniature, the model of a kingdom. Change now a single name ; in place of chief magistrate substitute king, and we behold a parliament in its first rudiments, and observe the first exertions of those powers which its members now possess, as judges, as legislators, and as dispensers of the public revenues."* In the parliament of the kingdom the borough was represented, from an early period, by delegates or commissioners, who were elected by the magistrates and town council, in the same manner as was observed, at a later æra, by the several counties. In the year 1398 mention occurs of William de Camera and Simon Benyn having been delegated, as commissioners, to represent the borough in the parliament at Linlithgow.† In 1406, commissioners were sent to the parliament at Perth, after the death of Robert III. ; and, in the year 1436, we find it mentioned that Gilbert Menzies was elected, by the town council, to represent the borough in the Parliament at Edinburgh, and L.16 Scots‡ were allowed him to defray his charges. The number of commissioners does not appear to have been limited, for, in the same year, three were delegated to represent the borough.§ In the year 1479 the same number occur ; and, in the year 1487, no fewer than four were elected.|| It does not appear that the office of dean of guild existed before the year 1427, when John Scrogie was appointed. About the same time, wardens over the craftsmen (artificers) were chosen by the town council, to regulate the prices of their work, and to observe that the same was properly performed. The number of the common council

* Dr. Robertson's History, vol. i. p. 279.

† Council Register, vol. i. p. 54.

‡ Equal to L.25 3s. 10½d.

§ Council Register, vol. iv. p. 114.

|| Whether the whole delegates, so chosen, sat in parliament, or only one, in the absence of the other, cannot be known.

council would seem to have varied from time to time ; for, in the year 1447, no fewer than forty were chosen members of this council. The office of treasurer is first mentioned in the year 1480 ; but no regular election of any person to that office appears to have taken place till near the middle of the subsequent century.*

The ancient patrimony of the borough at this time comprehended certain lands in the neighbourhood, the salmon fishings of the rivers Dec and Don, the public mills of the town, and a few patches of ground called borough roods. The revenue which the corporation derived from all these possessions, and from certain internal customs and duties, did not exceed, for many years, on an average, L.230 Scots.† These had been under the immediate direction and management of the alderman and baillies, for a series of ages before the office of treasurer was known.

In the year 1459 the lands of Old Cruives, which have since been rendered of so much value by the extension of commerce and manufactures, were purchased by the magistrates from John Bannerman of Elswick, for the small consideration of 140 merks. These lands, which are situated in the neighbourhood of the town, and on the right bank of the river Don, were acquired for the behoof of the community, and subsequently annexed to the borough in a charter of confirmation, which was granted by King James VI. to the provost, baillies, council, and community, on the 17th July, 1617.

The turbulent state of the kingdom, and the want of an uniform administration of justice in the supreme courts, rendered it extremely difficult for the magistrates to preserve peace and good order in the community. They had often to contend with the neighbouring barons, and their confederates, whose encroachments and hostile attacks they had too frequent occasion to check. These circumstances gave rise to several laws, tending to concentrate the strength of the community for its own protection. Accordingly,
among

* Council Register, vol. vii. p. 26.

† Equal to about L.431 5s. sterling money.—Council Register, vol. i. p. 56. 144.

among other regulations for the good order of the citizens, it was enacted, in the guild court, at an early period, that any citizen purchasing *lordship** against the town, or against the community, should incur a penalty of 40s. for each of the first three offences; and for the fourth offence he should be sent to prison for three days and three nights, deprived of his freedom as a burghess, and banished the town

* The following case will illustrate the nature of this municipal law :—

“ DIE MARTIS.

“ Curia ballivorum burgi de Abden, tenta in pretorio ejusdem 12^o die Mensis Maii, Anno Domini 1607, per honorabiles viros Alexandrum Cullen, præpositum; Paulum Menzies, Gulielmum Gray, Thomam Forbes, et Alexandrum Jaffray, ballivos.

“ The quhilk day, Mathew Youngson, merchant burghess of this burgh, being accused in judgement for purchasing of Lordship, against the liberty of the burgh, merchant and burghess thereof, violating thereby his oath, solemnly given in time of his creating burghess of guild of the same, in that the said Matthew caused and moved Thomas Fraser, brother to the laird of Muckill, yesterday, the 11th of this instant, to assist him in an evil cause betwext him and Gilbert Scherar, by way of menacing and boasting thereupon, occasion of trouble followed, and Walter Ronaldson, one of the ordinary officers of this burgh, stricken on the mouth and nose to the effusion of the blood; quhilk accusation the said Mathew flatly denied, and referred the trial thereof to the Assize after-written, sworn in judgement, and admitted by him.

Nomina Assizæ.

David Cargill	Gilbert Black, elder	David Ronaldson
Alexander Burnet, elder	Alexander Blair	Andrew Horn
John Laing	John Mitchell	Mr. Robert Lumsden
Alexander Murray	Thomas Goif	David Kemp
Patrick Donaldson	John Carney	Patrick Stewart

“ Who, out of court removed, and being within the council-house inclosed, after diligent trial of witnesses, and other kind of probation had by them anent the said Mathew's accusation, above specified, entering again in court, all in one voice, by the mouth of David Cargill, chancellor of the said assize, convicted the said Mathew Youngson of purchasing lordship against the burgh and liberties thereof, in manner specified in the said accusation; and that the said Mathew has violated his oath, given by him in time of making of him burghess† thereof, in manner specified in the said accusation. Whereupon Mr. William Moir, dean of guild, took acts of court, and instruments.

“ The sentence of the court against the pannel was, tinsel of his freedom, in terms of the acts of council, 9th October, 1411, and 14th April, 1528, besides a fine of twenty pounds.”—[*Council Register*, vol. xliii. p. 99. 143.]

† Part of the *Burghess Oath*, as it stood originally.

“ ARTICLE XI.—I shall, scot, lot, watch, and ward, with the inhabitants thereof.

—— XII.—Na Lordship purchase in contrair the liberty of this burgh.—[*Council Register*, vol. xii. p. 561.]

town for a year and a day. This act continued for many ages to form a part of the municipal laws of the borough.*

The foreign commerce of Aberdeen in this æra was carried on chiefly by means of vessels belonging to Brabant, Flanders, Holland, and other parts of the continent. In the middle of the century mention is frequently made of the arrival of ships in the harbour from these parts, with cargoes of grain, maschlaw, malt, flax, fruit, and other commodities, for the merchants of the town.† The exports and other imports seem to have been pretty much of the same nature with those mentioned in the immediate preceding æra. To the former may be added the commodity of pickled pork, which appears to have been exported to a considerable amount.

When it is considered, that money, at this period, was scarce in all parts of the kingdom, it is not unreasonable to conclude, that the revenue arising from land, and other property, and the prices of commodities and provisions, were proportionally small. Accordingly we find, from the rental of the property belonging to the community, the annual revenue very inconsiderable, and, from the regulations established by the magistrates, the prices of commodities and provisions equally low. The fine or composition for the admission of a burgess of guild amounted only to 13s. 4d.; but for the privilege of trading to Dantzic, it was five merks. These, however, progressively advanced from time to time, according to the improvement of the country, and the progress of commerce and manufactures. In the reigns of James I. II. and III. groat pieces of silver still continued to be issued from the mint, at Aberdeen, similar to those in the former reigns. They bear, on the obverse side, the impression of *Villa Aberden* on the first, *Abden* on the second, and *Abirden* on the last.

Among

* This statute passed 9th October, 1411; and it was also enacted, that no authority but that of the King, the Duke of Albany, the Earl of Mar, and the alderman and the baillies, should be regarded.—[*Council Register*, vol. ii. p. 113. 150.]

† *Council Register*, vol. v. p. 642. 644. 656.

By a municipal law of the borough, a burgess of guild was prohibited from trading beyond seas, unless he was possessed of merchandize to the value of 50s. under the penalty of five merks. He was also enjoined to bring home two tons of goods for each three sacks exported; and so in proportion to the value of fish and hides.—[*Council Register*, vol. i. p. 182. vol. v. p. 644.]

Among the ancient customs of the citizens may be mentioned that of covering up their fires at sun-set, in summer, and at eight or nine o'clock at night, in winter, on the ringing of the bell which was called the *couvre-feu*, or curfew. This custom is said to have been originally introduced into England by William the Conqueror, and perhaps it found its way into Scotland soon afterwards. The custom, however, prevailed at an early period in almost every considerable royal borough.* It might be considered as a prudent precaution against accidental fires, which, in those times, were not unfrequently attended with disastrous consequences. To this day the curfew bell continues to announce the hour of eight o'clock at night, although the original purpose of it is not now generally known. The bells of the church and tolbooth were rung at five o'clock in the morning; and the common cryer,† or town drummer, perambulated the streets with his drum at an early hour, probably for the same prudent purposes. These customs were strictly observed in Aberdeen for many ages, but some of them are now fallen into disuse.

The holiday of Sabbath was ordained by the convocation of the clergy at Perth, in the reign of King William the Lion, to commence on Saturday, at noon; and, till Monday, all profane work was prohibited.‡ But this sacred interval appears to have been devoted as much to secular purposes, and to recreation, as to religious duties. Fairs and markets were held in the town on this day, under the authority of royal charters. The booths (shops) were kept open on Sabbath, and provisions were sold in the public market;§ while the citizens practised archery, and their games and amusements, on this day, and on other holidays, a custom which is still common in many parts of the continent. These violations of the Sabbath were, however, in the progress of time, repressed by municipal laws, the penalty of infringement being generally a pound of wax, for supporting the expence of lighting or repairing the parish church of St. Nicholas.||

Miracle

* Dr. Henry's History of Britain, vol. vi. p. 333.—*Leges Burgorum*, c. 86.

† *Leges Burgorum*, c. 76.

‡ Spottiswood, p. 41.—*Boetius*, lib. 13.

§ Council Register, vol. v. p. 745.

|| *Ibid.* vol. vi. p. 758.

Miracle plays, or mysteries, were very common in many places of Scotland, as well as in England, in the age of popery. Being the first and earliest of modern dramatic exhibitions, they were performed originally in churches and monasteries, afterwards in the open air, on some spot calculated to show the performance to the greatest advantage. Rude and even ridiculous as they might now appear to be, they were interesting and instructive to our ancestors; they had a tendency to soften the manners of the people, and to teach the great truths of Christianity to many who could not read the holy scriptures.* These mysteries, or religious exhibitions, were originally under the direction of the monks and the clergy,† who were the actors; and to whom the people were probably indebted for their introduction into Scotland. In Aberdeen, however, they appear at an early period to have been conducted under the auspices of two

N

personages,

* “The miracle plays frequently required the introduction of allegorical characters, such as Charity, Sin, Death, Hope, Faith, or the like; and as the common poetry of the times, especially among the French, began to deal much in allegory, at length plays were formed entirely consisting of such personifications.—They were called *Moralities*. Mysteries were totally destitute of invention or plan; they tamely represented stories, according to the letter of scripture, or the respective legend.”—[*Dr. Warton's History of Ancient English Poetry*, vol. i. p. 202.]

These plays cannot be traced from an earlier date, in Scotland, than the reign of King James I. Buchanan mentions, in his *Hist. Rer. Scot.* among other matters regarding the church in his reign, “*Certoque psalmorum penso, et nunc alternis versibus contententes nunc choros inter actus adhibentes tragœdiæ speciem exhibebant, quæ Christi morte imaginaria claudebatur.*”—[*B. x. s. 39.*]

† “In early ages, trade was principally carried on by means of fairs, which lasted several days. The merchants, who frequented these fairs in numerous caravans, or companies, employed every art to draw the people together. They were accompanied by jugglers, minstrels, and buffoons. When few large towns existed, no public spectacles, or popular amusements, were established; and as the sedentary pleasures of domestic life were yet unknown, the fair time was the season for diversion. By degrees, the clergy observing that these entertainments made the people less religious, proscribed these sports, and excommunicated the performers. But, finding that no regard was paid to their censures, they changed their plan, and determined to take these recreations into their own hands. They turned actors, and, instead of profane mummeries, presented stories taken from legends, or the Bible. This was the origin of sacred dramas. Gregory Nazianzen, an archbishop, one of the fathers of the church, wrote many sacred dramas for this purpose, one of which, called *Christos Paschon*, or Christ's Passion, is still extant. In process of time the clergy were prohibited from performing, in a secular and mercenary capacity, in these dramas; and the people themselves, in due time, became the performers.”—[*Warton*, vol. i. p. 241. vol. ii. p. 366. 374. note.]

personages, styled “*The Abbot and Prior of Bon-Accord*,”* who were represented by two young citizens, probably sons or connections of some of the magistrates, in whom the nomination to these popular offices was vested. The salary which was annexed to them for supporting their charges was generally five merks,† or the fines of admission of two burgesses of guild; but was increased from time to time, according to the addition which was made to such fines. The earliest exhibition of this kind occurring in the record is the play of the “*Halyblude*,” which was performed, in the year 1440, at the Windmillhill, under the direction of the abbot and prior of Bon-Accord. The expence on this occasion being five merks, was defrayed in the manner above-mentioned. In the year 1479, we find announced, on the feast of Corpus Christi, a similar play, which was attended with the like expence.‡ The record is silent on the particulars of these plays, but probably they represented some of the most interesting scenes in the passion of our Saviour; and perhaps those of the higher class of the citizens may have been the principal performers.§ From these sources,

* These characters bore some analogy to the abbot of Misrule, known in England in the time of King Henry VII. or they were more probably borrowed from France. “In the French towns there was *L'Abbe de Liesse*, who was elected from the burgesses by the magistrates, and was the director of all their public shews. Among his numerous mock officers were, a herald, and a maitre d'hotel. In the city of Auxerre he was especially concerned to superintend the play, which was annually acted on quinquagesima Sunday.”—[*Warton*, vol. i. p. 239. vol. ii. p. 381. note.]

† Equal to about L.5 6s. 7½d. sterling.

‡ Council Register, vol. iv. p. 403. vol. vi. p. 591.

§ “In the year 1110, Geoffrey, a learned Norman, was invited from the university of Paris, to superintend the direction of the school of the Abbey of St. Dunstable, where he composed a play, called the play of Saint Catharine, which was acted by his scholars.

“In the year 1298, on the feast of Pentecost, and the two following holidays, the representation of the *Play of Christ*, that is, of his passion, resurrection, ascension, judgment, and the mission of the Holy Ghost, was performed by the elergy of Civita Vecchia, in curia domini patriarchæ Austriæ civitatis honorifice et laudabiliter.

“In the year 1398 some citizens of Paris met at Saint Maur to play the Passion of Christ. The magistrates of Paris, alarmed at this novelty, published an ordonnance, prohibiting them to represent *aucuns jeux de personages soit de vie de Saints ou autrement*, without a royal licence, which was soon afterwards obtained. In the year 1486, at Anjou, L.10 were paid towards supporting the charges of acting the Passion of Christ, which was represented by masks. The chaplains of Abbeville, in the year 1455, gave L.4 10s. to the players of the Passion.”—[*Warton*, vol. i. II. *Dissertation*, p. 43. 246. 249.]

sources, some transient views may be discovered of the origin and the progress of the modern drama. In process of time, such religious exhibitions became secular amusements, and profane subjects were introduced as the favourite topics of plays, which were performed by the citizens. These recreations, it would seem, had been too frequently practised; for they were afterwards ordained, by the magistrates, to be restricted to certain days of the year, namely, the anniversary of Saint Nicholas, the tutelary saint of the borough,* the Sundays of May, and to other such festival days.† On these occasions the citizens, dressed in their gayest array, assembled at the Woolmanhill and Playfield,‡ where they received the *abbot* and *prior* of Bon-Accord§ with pompous ceremony. These personages, and their

N 2

* 3d NOVEMBER, 1504.

“ It is statut and ordaind, and for act þpetuale ratefeit, for the uphald of þe auld rit and laudabile consuetud usit in þis burght, past memoř of man, in þe hono² of our glorious patronn Saint Nicholace, That all personis, burges sonnys, marchand men, and honest abill craftismen, of eūy craftis, address thame to rid one Sanct Nicholace day, all tymes to cum, in þar best abiliamet conveient for þe said raid in watter klokis þar vinast wedis siclike as has bene usit afor tymes quhen yai are warnit be þe þvest, bailzeis, or uýis, quhilkis yai sal be affixt to rid with be þe towne. And gif ony burges, or burges sonnys, havand takis of watteris, fischeings, landis, or pēsionn, or ony proffit of þe townn, abill to rid, beand warnit parto, and will nocht rid, and bin cōuicē ŷintill for iobedience, be ane suorne assiss, sall tyne þar said takkis of watters, fischeings, landis, pensionis, or proffit, þ² yai have of þe town, and be secludit and removit yarfra forevē w² out ressonabill causes schawin, to þe þvest and bailzies for þe tyme, þ² it be understandin be thame þe said causs is ressonabill, and to be admittit, þ² yai may not cōuenlic rid for þe said caus. And elikuiss all uther marchand men, craftismen, & fremē, untakkit, abill to rid, and beis warnit elikuiss be þe þvest or bailzies, and dis-sobies & contempnis, sal pay xxs. to Sanct Nicholace work, to be raisd in pane of brekin of comone ordinance, and aucht schillingis to þe bailzeis unlaŷ, unforgevin, w²out lauchfull impediment, as said is. And þis statut to be observit and keptit iŷiolablie all tymes to cum.”—[*Council Register*, vol. viii. p. 397. 828.]

† *Council Register*, vol. xxi. p. 388.

‡ The low ground on the west side of the Infirmary.—[*Gordon's Map of Aberdeen*, 1661.]

§ In a poem entitled “Propemtion Charitum Abredonensium,” composed by David Wedderburn, Master of the Grammar School of Aberdeen, at the desire of the magistrates, in 1617, on the return of King James VI. to Scotland, and for which he received a gratuity of 50 merks,|| the following passages occur, which show the veneration which our ancestors entertained for “*Bon-Accord* :”

“ Scilicet his placuit *Bona* sic *Cordantia* (nostræ
Lemma urbis) nostris adscripti ad civibus omen

|| *Council Register*, vol. xlviii. p. 529.

their train of attendants, mounted on steeds, afterwards proceeded in parade through the streets of the town. The remainder of the day was devoted to mirth and festivity; to dancing; and to the exhibition of games, farces, and plays;* concluding with a banquet, which appears to have been not unfrequently attended with tumult and disorder. To be absent, however, on these festivals, was an offence which was punished with forfeiture of the offender's lease, if he held such of the community, or with a pecuniary fine, to be applied for the expence either of the lights or repairs of Saint Nicholas Church. †

In

Firment, jam leges Fatorum poscere, gentem
Utraque ut auspiciis gens his coalescat in unam.

“ Namque, ut nos hilares solida inter gaudia noctes
Egerimus, testes vestro hoc clamore secundo
Quæ frenuere viæ, *Bon-Accord*, Abredonia testis
Testes tot choreæ Bacchi inter pocula læte.”

In the life of Bishop Patrick Forbes, prefixed to his “ *Considerationes modestæ et pacificæ controversiarum, de justificatione, purgatorio, invocatione Sanctorum, et Christo meditato eucharista—* London, 1658,” reference is made to this ancient institution. “ *Redux autem (bono cum Deo) factus, quam clero gratus, quam amicis charus, quam omnibus expectatus advenit! Consul senatusque Abredonensis omnibus humanitatis officiis complectuntur, et juxta Bonæ Concordiæ pristinam consuetudinem, ad testandum tam eximio viro, concivis filio, feliciter reduci benevolentiam municipem creant.*”

* By this time the exhibition of moralities, ballads, farces, and plays, was in high vogue among the people of Scotland. A morality was played at the marriage of King James V. with the Princess Margaret, in 1503. Sir David Lindsay, in his “ *Complaynt of the Papingo*,” says:—

“ And in the court bene present in their dayis
That ballatis brevis, lustally and layis,
Quhilks to our princis daylie thay do present.
Quho can say more than Schir James Inglis says
In ballatis, farsis, and in plesand playis?”

Warton, vol. ii. p. 279. 320.

Probably these games, farces, and plays, exhibited by the young citizens, may have been of this description; or perhaps they may have exhibited something of the same nature, borrowed from the English romances, such as the *Decameron* of Boccacio, and other works of the same kind.

† Council Register, vol. vii. p. 800.

In the beginning of the sixteenth century, these lords of Bon-Accord assumed the characters of *Robin Hood* and *Little John*,* two bold adventurers, who lived in England in the twelfth century; and are commemorated in entertaining songs and tales, for their predatory excursions and daring exploits. While exhibiting their games, in these new characters, they and their attendants were apparelled in green clothes, with yellow bows and brass arrows. But these ancient games, dances, farces, and plays, often had a tendency to engender irregularities among the citizens; they were attended with unnecessary expences to the lords of Bon-Accord, who vied with each other in their sumptuous banquets on Senzie day,† the first Sunday of May, and the Tuesday after Pasche, being the ordinary days appropriated for these exhibitions; and, at length, the people having become weary of such recreations and amusements, they appear to have gradually declined.‡

There

* Council Register, vol. viii. p. 828. 89. 1132.—Jameson's Diction. voce Waitlman.

17th NOVEMBER, 1508.

"The said day the provoist, bailzies, counsaill, & omittie of ye said burgh, representand the haill body of the samyne, warnit be the hand bell, & circualie inquerit, ale in ane voice concordant riplie avisit for ye auld rit and lovable consuetud of ye said burgh usit and perseverit all tymes bigane past memor of man, in ye honor of par glorious patronn Saint Nicholace, statut and ordaint p² all personis, burges, nichbours, and inhabitants, burges sonnys, habill to rid, to decor and hono^r ye towne in par array, pvenant parto, sall rid w² Robert Huyd and Litile Johnne, quhilk was callit yers bypast Abbot and Prior of Bon Acord, one eūy Saint Nicholas day, throw the towne, as use and wont has bene, quhen pai war warnit be ye said Robert Huyd or Litile Johnne, or ony ane of thame. And gif ony man, haffand tak of wattis, fischings, landis, or ony pensionn, or pffit of ye towne, habile to rid, beans warnit be ye saidis Robert Huyd or litile Johnne forsaid, and will nocht ryd, and bin ovikit yintill be ane suorne assiss of ye said burgh, sall tyne par tak, pensionis, and proffits, p² pai have of ye said burgh, & sall be secludit, removit, & utirlic expellit, fra ale tak, pensionis, pffits, quhatsume ṽ pai have of ye said burgh in tyme to cum, w²out ressonable caus schawin & pponit to ye pvoist, bailzeis, counsaill, Robene and Litile Johnne, obefor, and be considit be thame to be lauchfull impediment and excuss quharthrow pai my² not rid. And the personis havand na tak of ye said burgh, bean warnit be the said Robert Huyd or Litile Johnne, & will no^r rid, sall pay xx schillings to Sanct Nicholace work, & viiis. to ye bailzeis, unlaw unforgevin."—[*Council Register*, vol. viii. p. 899. 1132.]

† It signifies such a procession, in honour of the Saints, as is common in popish countries, when their images are carried through the streets. Pasche signifies Easter.

‡ Alex. Scott, in his "*Gratulation of the Month of May*," a poem written in the middle of the 16th century, expresses his regret that these games should have lost their ancient splendour:—

"In

There were various other plays and pageants, both secular and scriptural, exhibited towards the close of the fifteenth, and in the beginning of the sixteenth centuries, by the artificers, peculiar to themselves. These consisted of processions of the artificers through the streets of the town, on Candlemas day, on the feast of Corpus Christi, and on other festivals, with pageants and banners, which were displayed by the several corporations, bearing the emblems of their respective tutelary saints. The members, exhibiting the badges of their occupations, walked in pairs; and the whole was concluded with a religious or secular drama, in honour of the occasion. Every corporation, on the feasts of Corpus Christi, of Pasche, and of the Resurrection, and on other festivals, was required to provide splendid wax torches, for decorating the church in the celebration of high mass.*

The litsters (dyers) seemed, at an early period, to have regarded themselves as superior in rank to the artificers, and were jealous of the precedence assumed by the burgesses of guild, with whom they conceived that they had the privilege to mingle in their secular amusements and exhibitions, as was the practice in Edinburgh, in place of supporting characters in the scriptural dramas and pageants exhibited by the artificers. But this assumption of privilege was denied them by the magistrates in the year 1539. Having persisted in asserting what they considered to be their right, it was found that they had incurred the usual penalty of eight shillings, for contravening the municipal law. They were ordained to provide in future their banners and pageants in the processions and plays, on the festivals of Corpus Christi and Candlemas, in the same manner as the other craftsmen, to which they reluctantly submitted.† The artificers in general, it would

“ In May, quhen men yied everichone,
With Robene Hoid and Littil John,
To bring in bowis and birken bobyinis,
Now all sic game is fastlings gone,
Bot gif it be amangs clowin Robbynis.”

Dr. Irving's Lives of the Scottish Poets, vol. i. p. 212.

* Council Register, vol. vi. p. 900. vol. ix. p. 177.

† Council Register, vol. xvi. p. 291.

would seem, had, even previous to the reformation, lost all fancy for representations of this nature; and the church, soon after, prohibited

These pageants and dramas were regulated by acts and ordinances of the magistrates and town council. The earliest of them appears in the year 1442, and the pageants and dramatis personæ are represented as follows:—

“Curia Gilde tenē p Joh de Marr p̄pōitū sēda die mēfs Septembris, anno 1442.

“Yir craftes undwritin sal fynd yerly, in ye offerand of our Lady at Cādilmis, yir p̄sonnes undwritin; yat is to say—

Ye Littistares sal fynd
Ye empriour, and twa doctours, and alsmony honeste squiars as yai may.
Ye Smythes and Hammen sal fynd
Ye three kings of Culane, and alsmony honeste squiars as yai may.
Ye Talzoures sal fynd
Our Lady, Sancte Bride, Sancte Helene, Joseph, & alsmony squiars as yai may.
Ye Skynares sal fynd
Twa bischopes, four angeles, and alsmony honeste squiars as yai may.
Ye Webstares and Walkares sal fynd
Symion, and his disciples, and alsmony honeste squiars, &c.
Ye Cordonares sal fynd
Ye messyngear, and Moyses, and alsmony honeste squiars, &c.
Ye Fleschowares sal fynd
Twa or four wodmen, and alsmony honeste squiars, &c.
Ye Brethiŕ of ye Gilde sal fynd
Ye knyghtes in harnace, and squiars honestely arayt, &c.
Ye Baxstars sal fynd
The menstrualis, and alsmony honest squiars as yai may.”

Council Register, vol. v. p. 661.

In the year 1505, we find another of these pageants, preparatory to the offering of the “Play, in honour of God, and the blessed Virgin Mary.” The dramatis personæ were regulated as follows:—

<i>The Craftsmen</i>	furnishing.....	The Pageants
<i>The Cordwainers</i>	.....	The Messing
<i>The Websters and Waulkers</i>	.....	Symeon
<i>The Smiths and Goldsmiths</i>	.....	Three Kings of Cullane*
<i>The Lilsters</i>	.....	The Emperor
<i>The Masons</i>	.....	The three Knights
<i>The Tailors</i>	.....	Our Lady of St. Bride and St. Helen
<i>The Skinners</i>	.....	The two bishops.

In

* The three kings of Cologne were the subject of an ancient Metrical Romance, which is to be found among the Harleian Manuscripts. But pageants were often nothing more than a dumb shew, unaccompanied with any kind of interlocution.

“And the three kinges, with all their company,

“With thir presentes, and giftes misticall,

“Their crownes glistering bright and oriently,

“All this behelde I in picture on the wall.”

In the tapestry of the Tower of Lonon, there are recited, among other stories, the three kings of Cologne. These characters were generally introduced in some procession on the nativity.—[*Hurlton, vol. i. p. 210, vol. ii. p. 174, note.*]

hibited plays from being acted upon any subject in the canonical scriptures, or any play to be performed on Sunday. Meanwhile the games

In the year 1532, another drama, which is partly scriptural, partly legendary, is particularly mentioned; and was enjoined to be performed, by the artificers, on Corpus Christi and Candlemas festivals, in "honour of God, and the blessed Virgin Mary." The dramatis personæ were represented as follows:—

<i>The Fleshers</i>	furnishing.....	St. Sebastian, and his Tormentors
<i>The Barbers</i>	.....	St. Laurence, and his Tormentors
<i>The Skinners and Furriers</i>	.....	St. Stephen, and his Tormentors
<i>The Cordwainers</i>	.....	St. Martin
<i>The Tailors</i>	.....	The Coronation of our Lady
<i>The Litsters</i>	.....	St. Nicholas
<i>The Websters, the Waulkers, and Bonnet Makers</i>		St. John
<i>The Baxters</i>	.....	St. George
<i>The Wrights, the Masons, the Slaters, and the Coopers</i>		The Resurrection
<i>The Hammermen</i>.....	.....to furnish.....	The bear-men of the Cross

THE SACRAMENT.

Council Register, vol. viii p. 186. vol. xiii. p. 160.

However singular these may now appear, in the present enlightened age, it is certain our ancestors intended no sort of impiety by these exhibitions; neither did the actors or the spectators see any impropriety in the scenery: and what appears to us to be the highest burlesque, on them would have made no sort of impression: nor are we entitled to view them in the light of buffooneries. The people scarce knew any other history than that of their religion. Even in England, on such an occasion as the triumphant entry of a king or queen into the city of London, or other places, the pageants were almost entirely scriptural.

A play of the Old and New Testament was exhibited at Chester, in the year 1327, at the expense of that city, in the following manner:—"The fall of Lucifer, by the Tanners: The Creation, by the Drapers: The Deluge, by the Dyers: Abraham, Melchisedech, and Lot, by the Barbers: Moses, Balak, and Balaam, by the Cappers: The Salutation and Nativity, by the Wrights: The Shepherds feeding their flocks by night, by the Painters and Glaziers: The three Kings, by the Vintners: The Oblation of the three Kings, by the Mercers: The killing of the Innocents, by the Goldsmiths: The Purification, by the Blacksmiths: The Temptation, by the Butchers: The Last Supper, by the Bakers: The Blind Men and Lazarus, by the Glovers: Jesus and the Lepers, by the Corversarys: Christ's Passion, by the Bowyers, Fletchers, and Ironmongers: Descent into Hell, by the Cooks and Innkeepers: The Resurrection, by the Skinners: The Ascension, by the Tailors: The election of St. Mathias, sending of the Holy Ghost, &c. by the Fishmongers: Antechrist, by the Clothiers: Day of Judgment, by the Websters. The reader will perhaps smile at some of these combinations. This is the substance and order of the former part of the play:—God enters, creating the world—he breathes life into Adam, leads him into paradise, and opens his side while sleeping.—Adam and Eve appear naked, and *not ashamed*—and the *old serpent* enters, lamenting his fall—he converses with Eve—she eats of the forbidden fruit, and gives part to Adam.—They propose, according to the stage direction, to make themselves *subligacula a foliis quibus tegamus pudenda*—cover their nakedness with leaves, and converse with God—God's curse—the serpent *crit*, hissing—they are driven

games of *Robin Hood* and *Little John, Abbot of Unreason, Queens of May*, and all such games, were repressed, by an act of the legislature, in the year 1555.*

Among the religious ceremonies which were observed in the age of popery and superstition, may be mentioned, the weekly prayers on Monday, for the souls of the dead. A priest, who was appointed for the purpose, announced the ceremony publicly, by ringing a bell through the streets ;† and one of the bells of the church was rung at noon, and at six o'clock in the evening, for all Christian souls, according to use.‡ The inferior clergy were so numerous, that many of the more respectable citizens, and each corporation, or profession, in the town, had a chaplain, for performing divine service in the parish church of Saint Nicholas, at their own peculiar altar or chantrie, dedicated to some particular Saint. Sir Alexander Gray, chaplain of St. Crispin's and Crispinian's chantrie, by his compact with the cordwainers, in the year 1494, had the small emolument of forty shillings yearly for his services ; but he received his diet, during the week, from seven of the wealthiest of them, alternately ; which circumstance exhibits an interesting picture of the simplicity of the age. The priest, however, appears not to have been, at all times, a welcome guest at the table of his hosts ; for he had occasion to complain to the baillies, that the cordwainers had not performed the conditions of his service. An order was, therefore, issued to the deacons of the corporation to distrain the goods of those who had failed in the performance of the agreement, until they should show him that attention which his services merited.§ The dignified clergy enjoyed almost the whole patrimony of the church, while the numerous retainers had their chief dependence on the community for their support. Four of the clerks or chaplains, who officiated daily in the church of Saint Nicholas,

o .

from paradise by four angels, and the cherubim, with a flaming sword—Adam appears digging the ground, and Eve spinning—their children, Cain and Abel, enter—the former kills his brother—Adam's lamentation—Cain is banished," &c.—[*Warton, vol. i. p. 243. notc.*]

* Council Register, vol. i. p. 500.

† For this solemn service he received the small gratuity of L.1, for purchasing a new coat.

‡ Council Register, vol. vii. p. 910.

§ Ibid. vol. vii. p. 660.

cholas, had the several districts of the town appropriated for the payment of their wages.* Probably these were priests who performed devotional services for those of the community who had no altar or chantric peculiar to themselves.

Minstrels, or secular musicians, had become common in Scotland about this period. They possessed many privileges, and were held in high esteem by all ranks of the people.† Aberdeen, like other towns of consideration, had a proportion of them.‡ Their business was to perform favourite pieces of music upon their instruments, in the course of their progress through the town, every morning, at an early hour, and in the evening, after the ringing of the curfew bell. On all ceremonious occasions they attended the magistrates; and the abbot and prior of Bon-Accord, at their festivals. The minstrels were supported by the citizens, from the higher ranks of whom they received alternately their meat and drink; and, in lieu of these, one shilling yearly from each of the inferior class: but these emoluments appear to have been increased at different periods, according to the circumstances of the times; for, in the year 1552, we find that the wages were raised to 2s.§

Games

* Council Register, vol. vi. p. 496.

† Minstrels owe their origin to the *Troubadours* of *Provence*, an idle and unsettled race of men, who took up arms, and followed their barons to the crusades. They picked up numberless extravagant stories, and, at their return, enriched romance with a variety of oriental scenes and fictions. Richard I. who began his reign in 1189, invited to his court minstrels, or *troubadours*, from France. Their tales and songs, in the time of Edward II. were popular among our ancestors. The minstrel profession became a science, and they recommended their stories by giving them the advantage of music. Minstrels seem to have flourished in these times, and they were often more amply paid than the clergy. They found their way pretty early to Scotland; and the king, nobility, monasteries, and some of the royal boroughs, retained them in their service. Minstrels, at a later period, were merely musicians, and played on the kettle drum, the flageolet, the cornet, the Latin cittern, the Bohemian flute, the trumpet, the Moorish cittern, and fiddle.—[*Warton*, vol. i. p. 110. 113. 181. 244.—*Dr. Burney on Ancient Music*, vol. ii. p. 266.—*Chamberlain Accounts of Scotland*, vol. i. p. 96.]

The minstrels of Aberdeen composed a band of instrumental music; for mention occurs of the *tabourine*, *pipe*, *fiddle*, and *trumpet*.—[*Council Register*, vol. vii. p. 386. vol. xi. p. 163. vol. xiv. p. 488. 505. vol. xvi. p. 182. vol. xviii. p. 440.]

‡ Council Register, vol. vii. p. 386.

§ Ibid. vol. xi. p. 163.

Games of chance, it would seem, had been pretty early introduced into the town, but being considered as pernicious to the morals of the citizens, every effort was made by the magistrates to repress them. In the year 1444, William White, *Sutor*, was tried before the baillies, and convicted by a jury, composed of fifteen citizens, for permitting players of cards and dice, and other unlawful games, to frequent his house. He was enjoined to prevent such immoral practices in future, under the penalty of banishment; and, at a period subsequent to the reformation, John Duguid and Gilbert Kempt, two of the citizens, were banished for a similar offence.*

Clocks of metal, for measuring time and striking the hours, being unknown in Britain till the end of the thirteenth century, it is reasonable to suppose that they were not introduced into Scotland for a long period afterwards; nor were they common in the country at this time. In the middle of the fifteenth century the town had its common clock, or *horaloge*, upon the tolbooth; and, in the beginning of the subsequent century, a similar clock was placed in the church. In 1467 a person was appointed by the town council manager of the *horaloge*, with an annual salary of L.2 for his services; but, in the beginning of the sixteenth century, there was not a mechanic in the town capable to execute the ordinary repairs which these clocks required. The *horaloge* on the tolbooth having become defective, was sent to Flanders in order to be repaired; and, at the distance of twelve months, it was returned, probably not much improved by what had been done to it; for *Friar* Alexander Lindsay was afterwards employed to make certain improvements upon it, for which he was to be allowed five merks, provided the clock was made to strike correctly.†

In the early part of the fifteenth century, the plague, that dreadful scourge of the human race, had made its appearance among the inhabitants; and, towards its close, the distemper infested the town, and carried off many of them, although every precaution was
o 2
adopted

* Council Register, vol. iv. p. 386. vol. xlii. p. 632. 634.

† Council Register, vol. v. p. 778. vol. viii. p. 635.

adopted by the magistrates to prevent its fatal effects. On repeated occasions, during the former part of the sixteenth century, this contagious disease* afflicted the inhabitants; but we have been unable to collect information from the record regarding its peculiar nature, or the number which may have fallen a sacrifice to it at any period. When intelligence was brought of its ravages in other parts of the kingdom, all intercourse with the town was interdicted; and the ports were strictly guarded by the citizens, to prevent the intrusion of strangers. In the autumns of the years 1514 and 1546 it appears to have been unusually virulent; and such of the inhabitants as laboured under the disease were removed from the town, and lodged in huts erected for their reception, in the Links, and at the Gallowhills, where they remained until their complete recovery.† In the year 1497, another malady, no less dreaded, made its appearance among the inhabitants, which is distinguished by the name of “*the sickness of Naples, and infirmity of France*.”‡ It appears to have spread, and become common among the inhabitants in the beginning of the subsequent century. The distemper being hitherto unknown in this quarter, adequate surgical aid was not to be obtained, and those who were unfortunately afflicted with it were abandoned to linger and await their fate.§ Medical knowledge was still in its infancy in many parts of the kingdom, simples being the only remedies which were known by our early ancestors for any disease, and the barbers were yet the only surgeons. The first person we discover in the town of the medical profession was Mr. James Cumins, in the year 1503. He is stiled
mediciner;

* Miscellaneous Occurrences, p. 78. † Council Register, vol. v. p. 197. vol. vii. 934. 958. 993. 1068. 1105. vol. viii. p. 576. vol. xi. 338. 338. vol. xii. 454. 707. 354.

‡ By an act of the town council, which passed soon after its discovery, it was ordained, “that all patients labouring under this disease shall confine themselves to their own dwellings, and not hold intercourse with the baker, brewer, and butcher; and *all light women* are charged to desist from the *vice and sin of venery*, and pass and work for their subsistence, under the pain of a key of hot iron on the cheek, banishment from the town, and of having their booths and houses *scaled*.”

The venereal disease is supposed to have been imported into Europe on the return of the celebrated Columbus from America, in 1493. It was brought from Naples, where it was prevalent, by the French soldiers, in 1495, and by that means disseminated over every place in Britain.—[*Henry*, vol. xii. p. 217.

§ Council Register, vol. vii. p. 797. vol. viii. p. 752. 754.

mediciner; and such was his importance in the estimation of the community, that the magistrates, in order to secure his residence in the town, and to induce him to visit the sick and prescribe his medicines, agreed to allow him a salary of ten merks yearly, until he should be provided of a half net's salmon fishing of the Midchingle, or Fords of Dee, which was to be given him free of *grassum*, or fine.*

The military, in this age, were levied in Scotland by musters. The town had not only its own quota of men to furnish, on every occasion, to the state, properly equipped for war, or to pay money in lieu of service, but to provide for the defence of the city against foreign and domestic enemies, all at the charge of the community. To accustom the citizens to the use of arms, weaponshaws, in terms of the statutes, were appointed at certain periods, every person providing his own arms, conformable to his faculty and degree. Each burghess of guild was directed to provide himself with a spear, of five and a half ells in length, the national weapon, and also with a bow and target, these making part of his appointments, which he was required to have always in readiness for any emergency; and if he failed to be so provided, he was subjected to a penalty of eight shillings.† The earliest regular muster of the citizens at the weaponshaw, we find upon the first of May, 1522, at the Woolmanhill, where they were provided with a *palzion*, or tent. On this occasion every citizen was armed with the weapons peculiar to his rank and degree, on his own expence, no one being allowed to borrow either *jak*, *splent*, *knapscan*, or any other military appointment. Seven *carts* for the artillery were furnished at the expence of the artificers, and prepared for immediate service.‡

During this æra the citizens were comfortably and decently dressed, and the more opulent appear to have been extravagantly so. Sump-
tuary laws had been established by acts of parliament, for regulating
the

* Council Register, vol. viii. p. 278.

He was the first professor of medicine who was appointed in the King's College, then recently established.

† Council Register, vol. vii. p. 741. vol. ix. p. 294.

‡ Ibid. vol. xi. p. 76. 127.

the dress, both of men and women,* and for repressing the extravagance of burgesses, their wives and daughters, in the royal boroughs; but it does not seem that these laws had had much influence in Aberdeen. In a variety of cases which occurred on the subject of *heirship*, *moveables* of burgesses of guild, we find the following articles of attire, viz. :—Bonnet and hat; brown gown, lined with black lamb-skin, and doublet of black worsted, with fore sleeves of black velvet; red or black hose; jacket; coat of black serge; a *gilcot* of English red, *begirded* with black velvet; a *solak*; a Spanish cloak, *watted* with velvet. The ordinary dress appears to have been the gown and doublet.† The dress of a lady was the *ruff*, *courche*, red *hude*, *kirtle*, and *farthingale*; and her ornaments were chiefly of silver; for we find mention of the *pon* of black velvet, with the *braid* silver *burde* head *pendice*, with four *schethis*, for the head; and for the girdle, the *rakkil* belt of silver. The ordinary dress of the female was the red *kirtill* and russet gown.‡

The armour of a citizen of distinction consisted of the knapsaw, a spear, two-handed sword, bow and quiver of arrows; and not unfrequently he kept his horse, equipped with saddle and bridle, either for warfare, or ordinary occasions.§

Among the articles of household furniture, we can distinguish the board and board cloth, forms and trests, chairs, *almory* of oak, arras, standing

* “ That na mā w²in burghe p² levys be mēchandise bo² gif he be a psone pstitute in dignite, as auldmā, bailze, or v²þ gude worthi mē, p² ar of þe consale of þe towne, and tha^r wife, we^r clathis of silk, nor costly scarlatē ī gowyns, nor furringē of mertrike And at pai mak p² wife and doch^ris in lik maⁿ be abeilzeit ganeande and corespondande for thar estate, that is to say, on þ hede schort curche^s w² litill hude, as ar vsyt in Fland^ris, Inglande, and v²þ cūtreis. And as to þ gownys, p² na womā we^r mertrike, nor letvi^s, nor talys of vnsittande lenthe, nor furryt, vnd² bot on þe haliday.” —[*Acts of Parliament*, vol. i. p. 49.]

† Council Register, vol. vi. p. 899. vol. xiv. p. 313.

‡ At an early period these dresses seem to have been adopted from Flanders; for, in 1484, an act of the town council was passed, ordaining Robert Buchan, one of the burgesses, as often as he passed to France, to purchase for himself a new gown and doublet.—[*Council Register*, vol. i. p. 899.]

§ Council Register, vol. xiv. p. 313.

standing bed of oak, with curtains ; feather bed, blankets, and sheets ; spit and *tanterans* ; with *messer*, silver spoons.*

The population of Aberdeen, about the period of the reformation, although it cannot be ascertained with any tolerable precision, yet may be conjectured pretty nearly, from the register of marriages, baptisms, and burials, for the parish of St. Nicholas, established, under the authority of the magistrates, immediately subsequent to that event. According to that register, there were, in the course of the year 1572, thirty-seven marriages ; eighty children, namely thirty-five males and forty-five females, were born in lawful wedlock ; and thirty-five illegitimate children. During the same period the deaths were seventy-two. Taking, therefore, these last as the data, supposing that one fiftieth part of the inhabitants had died annually, and having in view the healthiness and state of society at the time, it may not be deemed unreasonable if we should estimate, agreeably to the usual principles adopted in such cases, the whole population of Aberdeen, at this æra, to have been 3600, or perhaps 4000 persons, of all ages.

The prevailing surnames in the town during this age, were, Anderson, Bannerman, Barbour, Benyn, Blyndsele, Branch, Cadzow, Chalmers, Colinson, Cullen, Cumine, Davidson, Douglas, Forbes, Fitchit, Fyfe, Giffard, Gray, Kennedy, Knowles, Irvine, Kintore, Lamb, Leith, Leslie, Lorimer, Marr, Menzies, Pratt, Reid, Rolland, Rowle, Rutherford, Tullidef, Scherar, Scroggs, Vaus, Wormot, Young.†

In the course of this epoch, the poverty of the princes, and the limited resources of the kingdom, exposed the community to frequent calls for public purposes. The sums levied by assessment from the inhabitants, for exemptions from military services, for the exigencies of the state, and for presents to their sovereigns, amounted to pretty considerable sums. These, so far as have been discovered, will appear particularly detailed in the annexed Table, and are exclusive of the great customs and fee farms of the borough, which were paid annually to the crown.

TABLE

* Council Register, vol. vi. p. 460. 486.

† Ibid. *passim*.

TABLE OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO GOVERNMENT BY ABERDEEN,

FROM A.D. 1398 TO 1559.

		SCOTTISH MONEY.					
		Ancient.			Modern.		
		L.	s.	d.	L.	s.	d.
1408	For the charge of the embassy sent to England	-	-	-	L.9	6	4
1410	To the Duke of Albany, a present of 186 nobles	-	-	-	-	14	0
1438	To the great Chamberlain	-	-	-	124	1	0
1442	To the Princess Elizabeth, in Brittany	-	-	-	2383	0	0
1448	.. the great Chamberlain	-	-	-	1536	16	0
	.. the King	-	-	-	914	7	11
	.. ditto, for the redemption of the custom on skins	-	-	-	926	0	1½
1455	.. the Queen's propine	-	-	-	1126	19	8
1457	.. the Chamberlain	-	-	-	1280	10	8
1459	For charges at the siege of Berwick	-	-	-	86	8	9
	.. charge of Ambassadors to England	-	-	-	648	6	0
	.. ditto to the Pope	-	-	-	72	17	0
1479	To King James III. for ten lasts of salmon	-	-	-	546	7	6
1485	For charges of Ambassadors to England	-	-	-	47	4	0
1488	.. ditto to foreign parts	-	-	-	67	0	0
1492	To King James IV. propine of 30 crowns	-	-	-	300	0	0
1493	.. charge of furnishing 20 bowmen to the Earl of Huntly's army sent against the Isles	-	-	-	26	10	4
1493	.. The King for a present on his proposed marriage	-	-	-	100	0	0
1495	.. the King, in lieu of service in the army sent to England against the Duke of York	-	-	-	514	6	0
	For the charge of Ambassadors to the Netherlands	-	-	-	45	0	0
	.. ditto of Ambassadors to treat of the King's marriage	-	-	-	71	13	4
	To King James IV. for propine	-	-	-	368	11	11½
1497	.. ditto ditto	-	-	-	107	9	11
	.. ditto ditto	-	-	-	20	18	0
1499	.. ditto ditto	-	-	-	14	8	0
	For the charge of ambassadors to foreign parts	-	-	-	45	0	0
	.. ditto of 20 bowmen to the Earl of Huntly	-	-	-	15	0	0
1493	.. ditto of Commissioners to the Duke of Burgundy	-	-	-	77	2	11
1495	.. ditto of fitting out ships and men against England and Ireland	-	-	-	100	0	0
	.. ditto of 8 Englishmen belonging to the Duke of York	-	-	-	40	0	0
1512	To the King, as a composition for being relieved from the Chamberlain Courts	-	-	-	205	14	5
1513	For charge of 20 spearmen, 3 horses, and 3 men, to the army in England	-	-	-	154	5	10
		-	-	-	200	0	0
		-	-	-	1028	12	6
		-	-	-	154	5	10
		-	-	-	2571	10	0
		-	-	-	200	0	0
		-	-	-	1028	12	0
	Carried forward	-	-	-	L.2621	19	11
		-	-	-	L.20226	15	9½

		SCOTTISH MONEY.					
		<i>Ancient.</i>			<i>Modern.</i>		
	Brought forward -	L.2621	19	11	L.20226	15	9½
1522	To the Regent, in lieu of service in the army assembled at Roslinmuir - - - -	700	0	0	3600	2	0
1530	.. the King - - - -	60	0	0	225	0	0
1532	.. the Regent, a monthly assessment of L.84, for supplies to the army sent against England						
1537	.. the King, when in France, by order of Parliament -	150	0	0	562	10	0
1538	For furnishing 60 men, to pass to France in the King's ships, for the honour of the realm - -	113	8	0	425	5	0
1542	.. charge of the army sent to the Borders -	113	0	0	423	15	0
1544	.. expence of obtaining relief of the great custom paid to the King of France - -	133	6	8	500	0	0
	.. the town's proportion of L.26000 on the whole kingdom, for supplies to 1000 horse to the army on the borders, for three months, ordered to be paid within 24 hours, under the pain of death - -	413	6	8	1500	0	0
	.. the charge of Ambassadors to the Emperor, in Flanders, for treating of peace - - - -	56	10	0	201	17	6
	.. redemption of the custom of salmon - -	210	0	0	787	10	0
1545	.. the town's proportion of L.16000, stented on the whole kingdom - - - -	276	4	6	1035	16	10
	From the merchants of the town for charge of the Ambassadors from France to the Emperor, in Flanders -	56	10	0	201	17	6
1546	To the Regent, as a composition in lieu of service at the siege of St. Andrews - - - -	200	0	0	750	0	0
1547	.. ditto ditto in the army assembled at Peebles	200	0	0	750	0	0
1548	.. ditto ditto at Gladsmuir - -	300	0	0	1125	0	0
1549	For the expence of 80 pioners to the siege of Broughty Castle	340	0	0	1265	0	0
1541	.. the charge of Ambassadors to the Emperor -	56	13	4	202	10	0
1552	.. proportion of L.42000 raised from the whole kingdom	414	6	8	1451	10	0
	.. composition at last Justice Eyre -	204	18	0	767	17	6
	.. the town's proportion of the sum raised from the boroughs	315	0	0	1181	5	0
1556	.. charge of certain forts on the borders -	315	0	0	1181	5	0
	To the Queen Dowager, composition to her and the Lords Componitors, at the Justice Eyre, for remission to the inhabitants for their <i>light offences</i> and small <i>oppressions</i> , and that they may not incur her Majesty's <i>unkindness</i> -	213	6	8	800	0	0
1557	For town's proportion of money raised from the whole kingdom	945	0	0	2617	13	0
	.. the charge of horse on the west borders -	78	15	0	218	2	8
	To the Queen, in lieu of service in the army assembled at Falamuir, on 2d October - - -	400	0	0	1108	0	0
1558	For the town's proportion of L.8000, raised from the boroughs, 1st payment - -	189	0	0	523	10	8
		L.9076	5	5	L.43632	3	5½

RENTAL OF THE LANDS, FISHINGS, MILLS, &c.

BELONGING TO THE BOROUGH OF ABERDEEN,

FOR THE YEARS UNDER-MENTIONED.

						<i>Ancient Money.</i>		
						1398.	1413.	
The Garne and Hazlehead	-	-	-	-	-	L.6	0	0
Schetokisley	-	-	-	-	-	3	0	0
Rubislaw	-	-	-	-	-	20	0	0
The town's public Mills	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	0
Fishings on Dee								
— Stellis								
— Rake, 5 nets	-	-	-	-	-	36	6	8
— Midchingle, 6 nets	-	-	-	-	-	16	0	0
— Pot, 6 nets	-	-	-	-	-	20	0	3
— Foords, 7 nets	-	-	-	-	-	25	0	0
Fishings on Don								
— 6 half nets	-	-	-	-	-	20	0	0
— Cruives	-	-	-	-	-	21	0	0
Tolls Firlot	-	-	-	-	-	13	6	3
Borough Roads	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	0
Small Customs	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	0
Water Boll	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	0

TABLE OF PRICES

OF

SUNDRY ARTICLES OF PROVISIONS, AND OTHER COMMODITIES, &c.

IN ABERDEEN,

AT DIFFERENT PERIODS, FROM THE YEAR 1398 TO THE YEAR 1556,

In Ancient and Modern Scottish Money.

						<i>Ancient.</i>			<i>Modern.</i>		
1398	A boll of wheat	-	-	-	-	L.0	4	0	L.4	10	0
	“ of malt	-	-	-	-	0	3	4	3	15	0
	Admission fine of a Burgess of Guild					0	13	4	14	0	0
1399	A boll of wheat	-	-	-	-	0	3	4	3	15	0
	“ of malt	-	-	-	-	0	3	0	3	7	6
1400	“ of wheat	-	-	-	-	0	4	0	4	10	0
	“ of malt	-	-	-	-	0	4	0	4	10	0
1401	“ of wheat	-	-	-	-	0	5	0	5	12	6
	“ of malt	-	-	-	-	0	3	0	3	7	6
	A stone of salt	-	-	-	-	0	5	4	6	0	0
	“ of iron	-	-	-	-	0	1	4	1	10	0
1405	A boll of wheat	-	-	-	-	0	2	8	3	0	0

					<i>Ancient.</i>	<i>Modern.</i>
1405	A boll of malt	-	-	-	L.0 2 0	L.2 5 0
	Admission fine of a Burgess to trade to Dantzic	-	-	-	3 6 8	75 0 0
1413	A boll of wheat	-	-	-	0 3 4	3 15 0
	.. of malt	-	-	-	0 3 0	3 7 6
	A stone of salt	-	-	-	0 5 4	6 0 0
	.. of iron	-	-	-	0 2 0	2 5 0
1417	.. of Buchan wool	-	-	-	0 2 0	2 5 0
	.. of Mar and Garioch wool	-	-	-	0 2 6	2 16 3 $\frac{1}{2}$
1433	A boll of wheat	-	-	-	0 7 0	6 14 5
	.. of malt	-	-	-	0 4 0	3 16 10
	.. of meal	-	-	-	0 3 8	3 10 5
	A gallon of ale	-	-	-	0 0 8	0 12 10
	.. Mutton Bouk	-	-	-	0 2 8	2 11 1
1439	.. boll of wheat	-	-	-	0 9 0	8 12 10
1444	Rye, imported from Stralsund, per last	-	-	-	7 10 0	144 1 6
	A boll of wheat	-	-	-	0 7 0	6 14 5
1468	Red Gascony wine, per pint	-	-	-	0 0 6	0 3 8
	Candle, per pound	-	-	-	0 0 3	0 1 10
1471	Admission fine of a Burgess of Guild	-	-	-	4 0 0	30 0 0
	A gallon of ale	-	-	-	0 0 8	0 5 0
	.. boll of wheat	-	-	-	0 7 0	2 12 8
	.. loaf of flour, weighing 20 oz.	-	-	-	0 0 1	0 0 7
1473	.. fiddler of lead, 120 stones, (usually 128 stones)	-	-	-	15 10 0	116 5 0
1476	.. Hamburgh barrel of salmon	-	-	-	2 10 0	12 10 5
1482	.. loaf of flour, weighing 8 oz.	-	-	-	0 0 1	0 0 5
1485	.. weighing 16 oz.	-	-	-	0 0 1	0 0 5
1489	A gallon of ale	-	-	-	0 0 8	0 3 4
	Candle, per pound	-	-	-	0 0 3	0 1 3
	A loaf of flour, weighing 16 oz.	-	-	-	0 0 1	0 0 5
1495	.. weighing 18 oz.	-	-	-	0 0 1	0 0 5
1498	.. weighing 12 oz.	-	-	-	0 0 1	0 0 5
1500	A boll of oats, with the fodder	-	-	-	0 5 0	1 5 8
	.. Hamburgh barrel of salmon	-	-	-	2 15 0	14 2 10
1501	.. gallon of ale	-	-	-	0 0 8	0 3 5
	.. loaf of flour, weighing 18 oz.	-	-	-	0 0 1	0 0 5
1508	.. gallon of ale	-	-	-	0 0 8	0 3 5
	Candle, per pound	-	-	-	0 0 3	0 1 4
	A sheep bouk	-	-	-	0 2 8	0 13 9
	.. boll of salt	-	-	-	0 6 0	1 10 10
	Mens' shoes, per pair	-	-	-	0 2 0	0 10 3
	A loaf of flour, weighing 12 oz.	-	-	-	0 0 1	0 0 5
1510	.. boll of rye	-	-	-	0 10 0	2 11 5
	.. boll of mashlaw	-	-	-	0 10 0	2 11 5
	.. boll of rye meal	-	-	-	0 10 0	2 11 5
1516	.. boll of wheat	-	-	-	0 12 0	3 1 9
1522	The best mutton bouk	-	-	-	0 3 0	0 15 5

					<i>Ancient.</i>	<i>Modern.</i>
1522	A gallon of ale	-	-	-	L.0 0 8	L.0 3 5
	.. lamb bouk	-	-	-	0 1 8	0 8 7
1541	The admission fine of a Burgess of Guild	-	-	-	13 6 8	50 0 0
	A loaf of flour, weighing 18 oz.	-	-	-	0 0 2	0 0 7
1543	.. 20 oz.	-	-	-	0 0 2	0 0 7
1545	White wine, claret, malvaise, and other wines, to be retailed					
	per Scotch pint, at	-	-	-	0 1 4	0 4 10
	A loaf of flour, weighing 13 oz.	-	-	-	0 0 2	0 0 7
1555	.. boll of wheat	-	-	-	1 17 0	6 18 9

N. B.—In the preceding Tables the modern Scottish Money is calculated according to the manner of Ruddiman, in his Tables, No. II. and III. in his Preface to Anderson's Diplomata. The principles will best appear from the annexed Table, formed upon the same data. Fractions under pence have been purposely omitted.

TABLE of Ancient, and proportion which it bears to Modern Scottish Money, adopted from RUDDIMAN'S Table, No. III. in his Preface to ANDERSON'S Diplomata, page 82.

A. D.	ANNO REGNI.	PURITAS.	ALLAIA.	Nummorum ex li- bra argenti cusorum valor.	Prop. ad hodi- ernam Scot. monetam.
Ab anno 1107 ad 1296	Alexandri I. Davidis I. Guliel- mi Alexandri II. Alexandri III. Joannis	<i>Unc. den. gr.</i> 11 2 0	<i>Unc. den. gr.</i> 0 18 0	<i>Lib. sol. den.</i> 1 0 0	36.
Ab anno 1306 ad 1329	Roberti I.	11 2 0	0 18 0	1 1 0	34.286
1366	Davidis II.	11 2 0	0 18 0	1 5 0	28.8
1367		11 2 0	0 18 0	1 9 4	24.59
Ab anno 1371 ad 1390	Roberti II.	11 2 0	0 18 0	1 9 4	
1393	Roberti III.	11 2 0	0 18 0	1 12 0	22.5
1424	Jacobi I.	11 2 0	0 18 0	1 17 6	19.21
1451	Jacobi II.	11 2 0	0 18 0	3 4 0	11.25
1456		11 2 0	0 18 0	4 16 0	7.5
1475	Jacobi III.	11 2 0	0 18 0	7 4 0	5.
1484		11 2 0	0 18 0	7 0 0	5.143
1488	Jacobi IV.	11 2 0	0 18 0	7 0 0	5.143
1489		11 2 0	0 18 0	7 0 0	
1529	Jacobi V.	11 0 0	1 0 0	9 12 0	3.75
1544	Marie	11 0 0	1 0 0	9 12 0	3.75
1556		11 0 0	1 0 0	13 0 0	2.77
1565		11 0 0	1 0 0	18 0 0	2.
1567	Jacobi VI.	11 0 0	1 0 0	18 0 0	2.
1571		9 0 0	3 0 0	16 14 0	2.16
1576		8 0 0	4 0 0	16 14 0	2.16
1579		11 0 0	1 0 0	22 0 0	1.64
1581		11 0 0	1 0 0	24 0 0	1.5
1597		11 0 0	1 0 0	30 0 0	1.2
1601		11 0 0	1 0 0	36 0 0	1.
1738	Georgii II.	11 2 0	0 18 0	37 4 0	

CHAPTER IV.

SECTION I.

The Reformation, and its first indications at Aberdeen—Proceedings of the Reformers there—Mr. Adam Heriot first Protestant Minister—succeeded by Mr. John Craig—Queen Mary's visit to the Town—Present made to her of 2000 merks—the Earl of Huntly and Sir John Gordon—Battle of Corrichie—Battle of Crabestone, betwixt the Gordons and the Forbeses—the Earl of Morton's oppressions, and attempts to disfranchise Aberdeen—his Grant of the Salmon Fishings of Don to Auchinleck of Balmanno—revoked by James VI.—He visits the Town, and 3000 merks voted for charges, &c.—his Marriage with Anne of Denmark—Ship fitted out by Aberdeen to convoy them to Scotland—Part of the Queen's Dowry lent to the Town—Birth of the young Prince celebrated—the King's visit to the Town—Popish Lords threaten the Town with fire and sword—Presents made to the Earl of Huntly—Visits of the King and Queen—Depredations of the Highlanders of Glentanner, &c.—Gonrie's Conspiracy—Union of the two Crowns—great rejoicings in the Town—King James visits Scotland—his Attendants in Aberdeen—his Letters to the Magistrates—Alarm of the Spanish Fleet—King Charles' Coronation attended by the Provost, &c.—Miscellaneous Occurrences.

FROM A.D. 1559 TO A.D. 1633.

THE reformation of our religion, in whatever light it may be A.D. 1559. viewed, was one of the greatest events in history, and the most important to society. The form of popery which prevailed in Scotland was of the most bigotted and illiberal kind, and its superstitions and absurdities had grown to an extravagant height. The Romish church had, for many ages, ruled with a domineering sway over the minds of men in that mild religion which had been revealed to us by our blessed

A.D. 1559. blessed Saviour; the influence of the clergy was unbounded, and their possessions and persons were regarded by a credulous people as almost sacred. No wonder, therefore, a fabric, which was supported by ignorance, superstition, and credulity, should have tumbled to the ground. The doctrines of Martin Luther had by this time taken deep root in England, and the protestant religion was there established upon a firm and solid foundation. In Scotland the reformation, although it had made considerable progress, was yet in its infancy, and did not advance to maturity, until the celebrated John Knox arrived from Geneva, whence he had been invited by the leaders of the protestant association. Possessing unconquerable intrepidity of mind, as well as powers of rhetoric, which were calculated to make the strongest impressions upon the people, with endowments of learning superior to that of any of his predecessors, he was fully qualified for the arduous ministry which he had undertaken. He steadily persevered in exerting his utmost zeal for the subversion of the hierarchy of Rome; and finally triumphed in the accomplishment of that necessary and important change in the doctrines of our religion.

The first indication at Aberdeen, of the new opinions, manifested itself in Mr. John Marshall, master of the grammar school, about the year 1521. He was summoned to appear before the provost, to answer for his contempt of the church, for being deficient in due subordination to it, and for the doctrines which he promulgated. Marshall, with the boldness of Knox and his colleagues, scrupled not to tell the provost, that he held the *school* of the magistrates, was ready to contribute his services to the citizens, and zealous to promote the education of their children; but that he did not consider himself amenable to the *court of Rome*, whose authority he contemned. For these spiritual errors and other transgressions against the church he found it necessary, however, two years afterwards, to express to the magistrates his contrition,* which probably saved him from the dreadful punishment which generally awaited its enemies. The new doctrines
of

* Council Register, vol. xi. p. 12. 378.

of Martin Luther had speedily found their way into Britain, and his opinions were making rapid progress in Scotland.* A.D. 1559. The established clergy, taking the alarm at these innovations, judged it necessary to suppress them by every means in their power. In the year 1525, a manifesto was transmitted from the king, at the solicitation of Gavin Dunbar, bishop of Aberdeen, addressed to the sheriff of the county, and to Sir John Rutherford, and Thomas Menzies, two of the principal citizens of the town, commanding them to publish the twenty-eighth act of parliament of King James I. which had passed against *heretics*, on the ground of its being reported that several *strangers*, and others within the diocese of Aberdeen, had in their possession *heretical books*, and were busied in propagating the errors and principles of *Luther*. Expedients of this kind were but ill calculated to extinguish the flame which had been kindled; and they probably tended rather to awaken and prompt the people to search into the great truths of Christianity, and thereby to discover the manifest errors of popery, than to promote the objects which were intended by this proclamation. In the year 1544 we find it mentioned that Thomas Branch and Thomas Cussing, two of the citizens, had been committed to prison, by order of the Earl of Huntly, then chief magistrate, until they should be brought to trial and punished, for being guilty of the sacrilegious crime of hanging the *image* of *Saint Francis*;† but whether they were put upon their trial does not appear.

The first reformers, as soon as they had obtained the ascendancy in ecclesiastical matters, were not satisfied with merely converting the minds of the people in regard to religious tenets. In the vehemence of their zeal, they were prompted to destroy those public edifices which were appropriated to religious purposes, had long been ornaments of the country, and were an honour to the age in which they were erected. This is evident from the magnificent ruins which still remain of many of them, in various parts of the kingdom.

Aberdeen

* In the year 1521, Martin Luther, an Austin Friar, professor in the university of Wittemberg, first promulgated the new opinions, and the errors and abuses in the Church of Rome; and perhaps by this time his famous *Theses* had found their way to Aberdeen.

† Council Register, vol. xviii. p. 320.

A.D. 1559. Aberdeen had few temptations to the reformers, either for destruction or spoil. The religious buildings were plain, and devoid of splendid decoration; the ornaments and riches of the church were scanty, and afforded no allurements in the way of prize. The mischief, therefore, done by the reformers at Aberdeen was inconsiderable, when compared with what other places suffered. The proselites to the new doctrines, who were confined chiefly to the south, daily increased in number, and were now distinguished by the title of *The Congregation*. Although they met with repeated checks from the established government, yet, in spite of these, they acquired new strength and vigour, and kindled and spread the ardour of reformation every where, in their progress northward. The citizens of Aberdeen do not appear to have been, at first, very zealous in the great work of reformation; and, therefore, the southern reformers found it expedient to make them a visit, in order to ascertain their sentiments in regard to the new doctrines. In the end of this year, it was notified to the magistrates, that a great number of these zealots were proceeding to Aberdeen, with an intention to commit acts of violence upon the church, and to despoil it of its sacred utensils and ornaments. The magistrates, on the alarm of their approach, found it necessary, in the first place, to attend to the preservation of the town's archives and public records, which were speedily removed, along with the great eucharist, and some other sacred utensils of silver, from the repository in the church, where they were kept, to a place of safety. On the 29th of December, a body of these reformers, from *Angus* and *Mearns*, entered the town, and proceeded to the work of destruction. Their first attack was upon the great spire of the church, which they attempted to pull down; but the citizens having no inclination to see their place of worship destroyed, beat them back, and prevented further mischief being done to the fabric. The execution of their threats against the other religious houses, it appears, was suspended
1560. for some days. On the 4th of January, this year, they proceeded, in a tumultuous body, to the Black Friars Monastery, in the Schoolhill, and Carmelite Friars Place in the Green; and having been allowed, and no doubt assisted and prompted, by the citizens, to demolish the buildings, and carry off the property of every description within them, they advanced in the same tumultuous manner to the Monastery

A.D. 1560. zens formed resolutions, expressive of their intention to defend the liberty of the realm. At the same time, they agreed to furnish forty men for the service of the *congregation*, and to use their utmost exertions in the suppression of *idolatry*.* No other circumstances of any moment attended the introduction at Aberdeen of the reformed religion, which was happily established immediately after the first ferment had subsided.

The papal jurisdiction being at length, by law, abolished in Scotland, the protestant church began to assume a regular form of government. Its principles, as contained in the Confession of Faith, had obtained the sanction of public authority; and the care of parochial duty was committed to ministers of the newly established religion. About this time Mr. Adam Heriot was appointed minister at Aberdeen, by the General Assembly, which met at Edinburgh. His stipend was fixed at L.200, which he received from the revenues of the town; but the magistrates presented to him annually a suit of black clothes, and other necessaries, to the value of L.30, besides a donation of L.10 in money, in name of house rent.† This learned divine being the first protestant clergyman established in Aberdeen, some account of his life may not be deemed foreign to the present work. He was originally a friar of the order of St. Austin, and lived in the abbey of Saint Andrews. His reputation for the learning cultivated among divines in that age was early known; and he was regarded as an eloquent preacher. Having renounced the errors of popery, and embraced the reformed religion, he joined the *congregation*, at Edinburgh; and, in the distribution of ministers of the gospel among the royal boroughs, was appointed to Aberdeen, where he continued until the time of his death, which happened upon the 28th August, 1574. The citizens of all ranks highly esteemed him for his distinguished humanity, probity, and general worth.§ He died of an apoplexy, in the 60th year of his age, and was buried in the quire of

* Council Register, vol. xxiii. p. 28.

† Council Register, vol. xxiv. p. 10. 22. The whole sums equal to L.55 ss. sterling.

§ Register of Births and Burials, vol. i.—Spottiswood, p. 274.

of Saint Nicholas church. In his ministerial charge he was succeeded by a no less worthy character, Mr. John Craig,* who had been the colleague of Mr. John Knox for the space of nine years. In the year 1579 Mr. Craig† resigned his charge at Aberdeen, on receiving the appointment of chaplain to the king. During his ministry, episcopacy was established in the church of Scotland, in consequence of the agreement which had taken place in a convention, composed of the leading men among the clergy and the committee of the privy council; and which had obtained, under certain qualifications, the sanction of the General Assembly.§ We are informed that David Cunningham was installed, in Saint Nicholas church, as the first protestant bishop of Aberdeen, in the month of November, 1577, by Adamson, archbishop of St. Andrews, and that Mr. Craig assisted at his inauguration, as one of the collaterals.‡

Meanwhile the affairs of the kingdom were in a disturbed state, and dissensions and jealousies still continued to prevail among the chieftains of the north. Queen Mary, at this time, found it necessary to make a progress thither, in order to endeavour, by her presence, to quell the commotions which subsisted in that quarter. She proceeded to Aberdeen about the middle of August, this year, 1562.

Q 2

and

* Council Register, vol. xxiv. p. 10. vol. xxv. p. 476.

† His father was killed at the fatal battle of Flodden. He received his education at the college of St. Andrew's, and was originally of the order of the Dominican Friars. In the course of his travels on the continent, having declared his opinions too freely in favour of the new doctrines, he was taken up and sent to Rome, being accused of the crime of heresy. He was tried before the tribunal of the inquisition, and, having avowed his doctrines, he was condemned to be burnt alive the following day, being the 19th August. It fortunately happened for him, that Pope Paul IV. died the same evening; and, in the course of certain tumults on that event, the prison was broken open, and Mr. Craig, among others, effected by these means his liberty. After encountering many difficulties, he returned to Scotland; and, in the year 1561, he was appointed minister of Holyrood-house. In the year 1567 he was commanded to publish in the church the banns between Queen Mary and Bothwell; but, with a boldness which reflected the highest honour upon his memory, he testified against the design, and publicly, in his sermons, condemned the marriage, and exhorted all who had access to the queen to give her their advice against so scandalous an alliance. Sometime afterwards he was translated to Montrose; and, on the death of Mr. Heriot, removed to Aberdeen. He died in the year 1600, at the age of 88.—[*Spottiswood*, p. 203. 462.]

§ Dr. Robertson, vol. ii. p. 258.

‡ Register of Births and Burials, &c. vol. i.

A.D. 1562. and was attended by the Earls of Murray, Morton, Maitland, and other leaders of that party. Her first visit to the town being an event which elated the community to a great degree, she was received by the magistrates, and by the citizens, under arms,* amidst the shouts and acclamations of joy of the people, and with every demonstration of welcome and regard. As a further mark of their loyalty and attachment, a present was voted to her Majesty, in name of the community, of 2000 merks† in money, which, when we consider the circumstances of the times, may be deemed abundantly liberal.

At this time the Earl of Huntly, one of the principal chieftains in the north, possessed ample domains, far exceeding that of any other subject: and his feudal superiorities and jurisdictions extended over several of the northern counties. This noble family continued to favour the ancient form of religion, and to support the queen in her attempts to crush the promoters of the reformation. At the same time, it would seem that elevated hopes had been entertained of a matrimonial alliance being formed between the Queen and Sir John Gordon of Deskford, knight,‡ the Earl of Huntly's third son. However vain these expectations may have been, an unfortunate incident occurred, which completely blasted them for ever. James, Lord Ogilvy of Cardal, only son of Alexander Ogilvy of Deskford, and Sir John, having some difference about the property of the estates of Deskford and Findlater, a deadly feud was kindled between them, which ultimately led to fatal consequences. On Saturday the 27th June, they accidentally met on the streets of Edinburgh, being both attended with some armed followers; and, in a scuffle which ensued, Lord Ogilvy was severely wounded. For this open breach of the public peace, Sir John was next day committed, by the magistrates of Edinburgh, prisoner within the council house, and the queen afterwards

* The ensign which was carried by the citizens on this occasion bore on it the words *Bon-Accord*. In such veneration was it held by the citizens, that it was preserved and presented at their weaponschaw, in the year 1616, nearly 55 years afterwards.—[*Council Register*, vol. xlvii. p. 502.]

† *Council Register*, vol. xxiv. p. 324. The sum presented to the queen was equal to L.207 15s. 6d. sterling money.

‡ Spottiswood, p. 185.

terwards commanded him to be strictly confined ; but, impatient of this restraint, he made his escape from prison, and fled to Aberdeenshire for refuge. On the arrival of the queen at Aberdeen, she was waited on by Lady Huntly, who interceded for her son, Sir John Gordon, and implored his pardon ; at the same time, requesting permission to attend her Majesty during her sojourn in the north.* The great influence which the Earl, at this time, possessed in this quarter, together with a declared intention to use his exertions to re-establish the catholic religion, were sufficient inducements with the queen to consent to Sir John's pardon ; but this was granted conditionally, that he should be imprisoned in the tolbooth of Aberdeen during her Majesty's pleasure, or removed to any other prison that might be afterwards directed. These terms being acquiesced in, he surrendered himself before the court of justiciary at Aberdeen, on the 31st August. He was ordained to be kept in custody, in the provost's lodging, where he was to remain till her Majesty's pleasure should be known ; and, on the subsequent day, he was enjoined to proceed to Stirling Castle, and there to be detained as a prisoner.† This condition being deemed by Sir John an act of intolerable rigour, he resolved to extricate himself from it. Having proceeded so far in his journey, he made his escape from his attendants, and returned to Aberdeen, to take the command of his followers, who were rising in arms in the north. He soon afterwards appeared in the neighbourhood of Aberdeen, with a body of 1000 horse, having formed a determination to resist the queen's authority.‡ In this critical juncture, the Earl of Huntly, who, from various circumstances which had recently occurred, concluded that his family was devoted to destruction, now no longer disguised his own intentions, but put himself at the head of a body of troops which he had collected in his extensive territories, advanced towards Aberdeen, and formed a junction with his son, Sir John. Meanwhile the queen had returned to Aberdeen from Inverness, where she had been occupied in quelling some disorders in that quarter. Her army being at this time stationed at Aberdeen, was
under

* Spottiswood, p. 186.

† Acts of Parliament, vol. ii. p. 576. 577. 579. 581, 582.

‡ Keith's History, p. 230.

A.D. 1562. under the command of the Earl of Murray. It consisted of only a small body of men, hastily collected from the shires of Angus and Mearns; for no reliance could be placed on the barons of the north, the most of whom at this time either favoured Huntly's* designs, or stood in awe of his power. With this force Murray marched from the town against the confederates, and found them posted to great advantage, at Corrichie, near the hill of Fair, about twelve miles to the west
 Oct. 28. of the town. He commenced the attack, and, after some turns of fortune in the course of the day, obtained the victory, Huntly's army being completely defeated and put to the route, with considerable loss. The Earl of Huntly was killed in the battle, or trodden to death in the pursuit, although it is said that Murray was extremely anxious to have him secured alive.† His sons, Sir John and Adam, were taken, along

* On the 26th of October, 1562, a privy council was held at Aberdeen, which consisted of the Earls of Errol, Athol, Marischal, Murray, Morton, and Lord Erskine, when the following barons were bound over to confine themselves at the following places, under certain penalties, namely, George Gordon of Gight, at Edinburgh, under the penalty of 5000 merks; Gordon of Abergeldie, in St. Andrew's, under the penalty of 5000 merks; Alexander Gordon of Strathdown, in Haddington, under the penalty of 5000 merks; Alexander Gordon, eldest son of George Gordon of Lesmoir, in Edinburgh, under the penalty of 2000 merks; George Gordon, son and heir to James Gordon of Crichton, for his father, and Alex. Gordon of Birkenbog, his brother, both of them in Edinburgh, and Patrick Gordon of Auchmanzie, in St. Andrew's, under the penalty of 2000 merks; Thomas Gordon of Kinnadie, and Alexander Gordon, for William Gordon of Craig, his brother, in Edinburgh, under the penalty of 3000 merks.—[*Keith*, p. 227.]

† “James Stewart, prior of Saint Andrew's, was natural son of King James V. by a daughter of Lord Erskine. The Queen, his sister, having determined to reward his services, created him an Earl, by the title of Mar; and that he might be better able to support his new honour, bestowed upon him, at the same time, the lands of that name. These were part of the royal demesnes, but the Earls of Huntly had been permitted, for several years, to keep possession of them. On this occasion the Earl of Huntly not only complained, with some reason, of the loss which he sustained, but had real cause to be alarmed at the intrusion of a formidable neighbour into the heart of his territories, who might be able to rival his power, and excite his vassals to shake off his yoke. Lord Erskine having pretended a right to the earldom of Mar, the prior resigned it in his favour, sometime betwixt the 10th of September and 15th of October, 1562; and, at the same time, Mary conferred upon him the title of Earl of Murray, with the estate annexed to that dignity, and which had been in the possession of the Earl of Huntly since the year 1548.”—[*Keith*, p. 226.—*Dr. Robertson*, vol. ii. p. 79. 83. 85.]

This sudden advancement of the prior to the earldom of Mar, the new title conferred upon him, the encroachments upon the Earl of Huntly's domains, and the great influence which Murray possessed with the Queen, naturally induced Huntly to conclude that his family was devoted to destruc-

along with many others; and the queen's army returned in triumph A.D. 1562. to Aberdeen, with the prisoners. Several of them were speedily tried and convicted before the justiciary court, which was still sitting in the town, and suffered the punishment due to their rebellion against the queen. Adam Gordon was pardoned, in consideration of his youth; but Sir John, his brother, being the principal actor in this rash and inconsiderate affair, was doomed to the scaffold, and suffered accordingly, in the Castlestreet of Aberdeen, two days after the battle.* The instrument called the maiden, by which he suffered, is still preserved in the town's armoury. His body was buried in Saint Nicholas Church, on the south side of the altar dedicated to the Virgin Mary.

These events, so disastrous to the house of Gordon, had well nigh proved fatal to it. Lord Alexander,† the Earl's eldest son, who had been privy to his father's design, was seized in the south, and, upon trial, convicted of high treason, but was pardoned through the queen's clemency. The proceedings in parliament against this noble family were afterwards conducted with the utmost rigour, and its downfall appeared to be fast approaching. Some years afterwards, however, parliament thought proper to repeal the act of attainder which had passed against the family, and to restore to it the estates and

tion. The present disturbance, therefore, must be ascribed more to a sudden start of resentment against Murray, than to any premeditated purpose of rebellion against the Queen.

* On this awful occasion Queen Mary was residing in the lodging of the Earl of Marischal, on the south side of the Castlestreet. Murray, it has been reported, forced her to the window, to behold the melancholy fate which awaited the man whom she once regarded. When on the scaffold, Sir John fell upon his knees, looking stedfastly on Mary. This was more than she could bear; she melted into tears, and speedily Sir John received the fatal stroke of the axe.—[*Gordon's History of the Gordons*, p. 100.]

The Earl of Huntly's body being brought to the town, was afterwards conveyed by sea to Edinburgh, and kept unburied for some time in the abbey of Holyroodhouse. An arraignment of high treason was preferred against him before parliament, on the 28th of the subsequent month of May, and the doom of forfeiture was passed against the family.—[*Keith's History*, p. 228.—*Acts of Parliament*, vol. ii. p. 572.—*Crawford's Officers of State*.]

† He married Margaret, daughter of James, Duke of Chatelherault, but died without issue.—[*Crawford's Peerage*.]

A.D. 1567. and honours, in the person of George, Earl of Huntly,* the second son of the late Earl.

1571. For many years an inveterate animosity, characteristic of the times, had subsisted between this family and that of Lord Forbes. Both families were equally actuated by the spirit of revenge, and an eagerness to prosecute their deadly quarrels. Adam Gordon, who was now in the interest of the queen, had been recently engaged in
 Oct. 10. a skirmish with the Forbeses at Tulliangus; after which he availed himself of an opportunity to attack the castle of Towie, in the parish of Leochell, a baronial mansion which belonged to Forbes of Brux, one of this family; but, having met with resistance, he set fire to the castle, and the lady of the manor, her children, and servants, to the number of twenty-seven persons, perished in the flames.† So barbarous an act could not fail to exasperate the Forbeses, and prompt them to seek for revenge. John, Master of Forbes, did not long hesitate to proceed in quest of Adam Gordon, whom he found, with
 Nov. 20. his confederates, at Aberdeen. They met at the Crabestone,‡ on the south-west side of the town, to decide their quarrel in the field, and fought with the utmost fury; but the Forbeses were defeated, and put to the route, the Master of Forbes being taken prisoner.§ In this conflict sixty were slain on both sides; and some of the citizens seem to have been actively concerned in it, probably on the part of Adam Gordon. It would appear that the affair was afterwards
 1572. represented to the Earl of Morton, when regent of the kingdom, in unfavourable terms for the citizens. They were summoned in a penal action before the lords of the privy council, for this and other offences, on which Patrick Menzies, one of the baillies, was delegated by the magistrates to repair to Edinburgh, with the utmost expedition, to explain the circumstances to the regent. In this mission he appears to have succeeded, for, not long after, the action was quashed; and Morton
 was

* Acts of Parliament, vol. ii. p. 576.

† Buchanan, lib. xx. cap. 64.

‡ This distinguished stone still remains in the front wall of a house, on the south side of the old road leading to the town from the south, about 1200 yards from the cross. It also marks the site of the field of battle gained by Montrose over the Covenanters, 13th September, 1644.

§ Buchanan, lib. xx. cap. 65.

was pleased to grant to the magistrates and community a remission A.D. 1572. of all past crimes and offences, in the usual form.*

At this period the disorders in every part of the kingdom were become intolerable, and crimes of every kind were committed with impunity. The regent attempted to redress these, but the avarice which he betrayed in performing it, and his own exactions, were more oppressive to the people than all the irregularities which he restrained. After the occurrences which have been just related, Aberdeen became obnoxious to him, and was marked out as an object to gratify his avarice. He repaired to the town in the beginning of 1574. September, at the time the justiciary court was sitting; and, having convened the citizens before him, denounced the heaviest vengeance upon them for having been deficient in loyalty to their sovereign during the late commotions among the nobility. This was merely the prelude to a scheme which he had devised to wrest from the citizens a contribution in money. The scheme was conducted with much dexterity, and managed with his usual artifice. He introduced to them a proposal to submit to the payment of such mitigation or composition as he, and the lords of the privy council, should think adequate to their offences. In vain did they remonstrate against such an exaction, and equally vain were their attempts to vindicate themselves. After many meetings, and much deliberation, they were at length constrained to acquiesce in his demands, that they might avoid more serious consequences. Six of them were associated in a bond, to which the common seal of the borough was affixed, whereby it was stipulated that they should pay 4000 merks,† as a composition, to be raised by an assessment on the inhabitants at large. With the greatest rigour 3000 merks of this money were exacted from them, on the 20th day of the subsequent month of October; and the remaining 1000 merks the regent was pleased to order to be appropriated to the support of the hospital, the leper's house, and the public works of the town. At the same time another bond was framed,

and

R

* Register of Births and Burials, vol. i.—Council Register, vol. xxviii. p. 22.

† Equal to about L.477 15s. 8d. sterling. One thousand merks of this sum were assigned to Marjory Douglas, Lady Ravenscraig, and paid accordingly.

A.D. 1574. and signed by the magistrates, council, and the whole citizens, by which they were expressly bound "to concur with the king's lawful lieges in the defence and preservation of his estate and authority; and not to entertain *traitors, rebels, or conspirators*, directly or indirectly, nor to elect any persons to the council of the borough, but such as were known to be zealous professors of the true *Christian religion*, as now established, under the penal sum of L.20,000."* In order to give some semblance of justice to his conduct on this occasion, the citizens were influenced to make a declaration, acknowledging the support which they had given to the Earl of Huntly, and Adam Gordon, his brother, during the late rebellion. These matters being thus accommodated to his mind, a remission was granted by the regent to the magistrates and the community of all past crimes and

1579. offences. In this year, the remembrance of old transgressions, and some recent irregularities on the part of the citizens, prompted the regent to make another attempt to gratify his usual rapacity, at the expence of the community, and to make the citizens feel the weight of his ministerial vengeance. With this view he had recourse to an expedient which created no little alarm among them. An action at law was brought against the magistrates and the community, before the king and the lords of the privy council, for disfranchising the borough, and for payment of the penal sum of L.20,000, contained in the bond formerly mentioned, on the usual frivolous pretence of offences and irregularities having been committed by the citizens. In this action were also included the 1000 merks, being part of the former composition, which he had directed to be applied to the benefit

1581. of the public institutions.† Happily for the town and the community, as well as for the nation, his downfall was fast approaching; for, not long after, he terminated his career on the scaffold. King James VI. having taken the reins of government into his own hands, the further prosecution of this action was abandoned.

A short time after Morton had been declared regent of the kingdom, an incident occurred which at first appeared to be pregnant with

* Council Register, vol. xxviii. p. 257—261. 355.

† Ibid. vol. xxix. p. 800.

with fatal consequences to a valuable part of the patrimony of the borough. George Auchinleck of Balmanno, at this time president of the supreme civil court, nephew to the regent, had obtained a grant of the lands of *Polgowny*, on the left bank of the river Don, and in the neighbourhood of the town. Morton, when in the plenitude of his power, conceiving that he might, without challenge, dispose of the ancient property of the borough, granted to his nephew a charter, *de novo damus*, in which was comprehended a right to the salmon fishings of the river Don contiguous to those lands, although these fishings had belonged to the borough and the community, and had been occupied by the citizens without interruption, since the time of King Robert Bruce, from whom they had derived their right. Under the authority of this grant from the regent, Auchinleck proceeded to the exercise of his privilege to the fishings, which naturally excited a considerable degree of alarm in the community, and prompted the magistrates to attempt to avail themselves of the laws, for obtaining redress. The administration of justice before the civil court being at all times tardy and uncertain, was not likely to afford speedy relief in a matter of this kind, more especially under the government of such a minister as Morton. In the year 1574 mutual law-suits were, however, resorted to, in order to support the respective claims of the parties, but years passed away in fruitless and expensive litigation,* and the community obtained no redress. After the downfall of Morton, when the government of the kingdom had devolved upon the young king, the magistrates were advised to adopt a more effectual expedient for obtaining restitution of the property. They addressed their memorial on this important matter to King James and the lords of the privy council, who were at this time at Dunnottar, in the course of a northern excursion. The king and his council were so fully convinced of the iniquity of the grant, and of the arbitrary attempt which had been made to bereave the borough of its ancient rights, that they did not hesitate to pass a revo-

R 2

cation

* These law-suits cost the town no less than L.600, which were assessed on the inhabitants at different times; and ultimately the magistrates were obliged to grant leases, in reversion, of the mills, of certain fishings, and of the bell and petty customs, in order to raise money to answer this expence.—[*Council Register*, vol. xxix. p. 84. 307. 363. vol. xxx. p. 340. 342.]

A.D. 1581. cation* of the charter under which Auchinleck claimed the property, so far as it extended to the salmon fishings. This revocation afterwards

* “ At Duñotter, the xxii day of Junij, the yeir of God Jave four scoir yeiris.—Anent the supplication pntit to the Kingis Majestic and Lordis of secreit Counsale, be the Provost, Coimsale, and Coñunitie of the bŭr² of Aberdene, makand mentionn, That quhair his Hienes progenitor King Robert, of gude memorie, quia restis w² God, sumtyme beand w² in the said bŭrg², persaving the barrennes and sterilitie of the cuntrie quhair the said bŭr² is situat, and the gret honestie ȳ² of, Togedder w² the fervent lufe schawin be thame to his Hienes, and his progenitors, then and at all tymes of befoir. Considering alsua thair bauld manheid in the recoving and destroying of the strong castell biggit and mantenit thair be the Englismen sumtyme, for dauting and suppressing of the bŭr² and cuntrie.—Upounn thir respectis dotit the said bŭr² and coñunitie ȳ² of, of his bountifull liberalitie and clemencie, with certane coñmoditeis, liberteis, and immuniteis, for the ayd and support of the same; and namelie, with ane pece ground callit the Stokkat, adjacent to the bŭrg², and the salmound fischeings of the same bŭr² upounn the watteris of Dey and Done, for yeirlie pament, to his Grace and his successors, of thre hundreth and twentie űkis usuale money of this realme, In name of feu-farme, As yāir infestment thairof proportis; According to the quhillk, they and thair predecessors hes peceabillie bruikit and joisit the saidis salmound fischeings of the same bŭr² continewallie sen the obtenig of thair said infestment, without impediment or molestatioun of ony person, Q^{uod}ll laitie within thir five yeirs last bipast, that George Auchinlek of Balmanno, havand the lands of Polgoun and Murk², † liand contigue to the salmound fischeingis of Done, on the north and north-eist side of the saidis fischeings, purchest ane ȳndit new infestment of the saidis lands, including thairin salmound fischeing, *per modo de novo damus*, ȳlk he nor his predecessors never had in ony infestment befoir, But maist wranguslie purchest and gevin be his moder broder the Erl of Mortoun, then being Regent of his Hienes realme and lieges, Not onlie to the gret dampnage and detriment of his Hienes, the coñunitie foirsaid, and thair posteritie, bot alsua to the gret prejudice of his Māteis yeirlie renews and patrimony of his crown; In sa far, for the said Provost, Counsale, and Coñunitieis ȳ² that gif the said George be sufferit to cum in possessionn (in the ȳlk as zit he nevir cam) of the said new ȳndit conquest of the said fischeing, Thay and thair successors will be debarrit and stoppit fra all salmound fischeing on that watter, in all tymes cūing, In respect he ȳndis his said new fischeing to be betwix thame and the sea, and in the sey forgains the watter mouth of Done, Thair scarring and debarring of the salmound fischis, with cobbilis, airis, and nettis, stopping thame to enter in the watter, and thairby chaissing of thame agane in the mayne sey, To the saids Provost, Counsale, and Coñunitieis utter heirischip and wrak, Seing that without the industrie and coñmoditie of salmound na bŭr² nor inhabitant of bŭr² culd well be thair be desert solitude. And as concerning his Hienes ȳt in prejudice of his patrimony, they cannot be abill to pay the yeirlie feu farme of thre hundreth and twenty űkis to his Hienes, gif they inlaik the coñmoditie ȳ² for the same is payit. Mairowir his Mātie will inlaik the yeirlie dewitie and custume of the salmound fisches, ȳlk now is payit yeirlie, gif the salmound be not taikin, bot stayit and impedit be the impediment foirsaid, for the maist special dewitie and custume of the said bŭr² consists in the custume of salmound yeirlie, As the Chelker comptis testifies, Swa are they not onlie hurt and dampnifeit be this new infestment of *de novo damus*, bot alsua his Hienes patrimony is and wilbe meikle hurt ȳ²by. Humilie thairfoir desyring oure Sovereane Lord, That for releif of his awin con-

† These lands now belong to the heirs of Alexander Fraser, Esq. of Fraserfield, and are distinguished by the names of Fraserfield and Murcar.

wards obtained the sanction of parliament, which completely terminated this business, which had depended for several years. A.D. 1581.

The affairs of the kingdom being at this time pretty tranquil, King James, in the month of November, this year, made a progress northward, and visited Aberdeen for the first time. He was received by the magistrates amidst the loudest acclamations of joy of the inhabitants, who neglected nothing which could express their duty and affection to their young sovereign. The community voted 3000 merks* for a present in gold, to be tendered to his Majesty, and for defraying the charges which might be incurred on the occasion. During his stay, the citizens formed a daily guard to attend his

science, Redres of the said Provest, Counsale, and Coṃunitie, and reteṅ his Māteis awin richt and yeirle rent, That his Hienes wald provide remeid heirto be revoiking of the said pñdit new Infestment of *de novo damus*, for the caul⁹ foirsaidis, lykeas at mair lenth is contenit in the said supplicationn. Quhilk being red, sene, and considderit be his Mātie and Lordis of secreit Counsale, and they having respect not onlie to the scaith sustenit be the saidis Provest, Counsale, and Coṃnnitie, be granting of the said new Infestment of the said fischeing, bot alsua that his Hienes is and wilbe gretlie prejudgit ȳ²by, Respectand thairw² all the coṃoditie that shall redound to his Māties self be making of the said revocationn, Hes thairfoir, eftir mature aduise and deliberationn, Renoikit, cassit añullit, and dischairgit, Lykeas his Mātie, be their pñtis, with aise of the Lordis of his secreit Counsale, Revoikis, cassis, añullis, and dischairgis, the said new Infestment of *de novo damus*, sa fer as the same extendis or may extend to the saidis fischeingis allenarlie, As given to the said George, in his Māties minoritie, not only to the scaith of the saids Provest, Counsale, and Coṃunitie, bot alsua to the gret hurt of his Hienes awin yeirle rent. Declairand the same, with all that followit or may follow thairuponn, touching the said fischeings, to have been fra the begyñing, and to be in all tyme cūming, of nane availl, force, nor effect in judgement, or outwith quhair the same beis productit."

(Subscribed)

"DEIR."

"MUNTROISS."

"JAMES R."

DORS.

"Apud Dunnotter, xxii Junij, Jv. LXXX^o."

SEDERUNT;

REX,

LEUVENAX,
MONTROISS,
MAR,

DUNFERMLING,
DEIR,
SANCT COLMIS INCHE;

"Red, past, and allowit in Counsall sittand."

(Signed)

"JOANNES ANDRO."

This deed was ratified in parliament, 30th October, 1581.

* Council Register, vol. xxx. p. 5.

A.D. 1581. his Majesty, and he and the nobility were entertained with *plays, fasts, histories, antiques*, and various other amusements, which were
 1582. customary at the time. In the following year he paid them another visit, and was received with the usual ceremonies and marks of attention.

1589. On the 24th of April, this year, he visited the town, attended by his court, and was received by the magistrates and by the citizens, under arms, with every expression of joy of the inhabitants. But this visit appears to have been chiefly intended for financial purposes; for a call was made on the community for a loan of 2000 merks, which was advanced to the Earl of Angus on his Majesty's account.* Princes, however, seldom think of repaying money which has been borrowed from their subjects, and therefore this advance never was refunded to Aberdeen.† On this occasion liberal presents were made to the king and his nobles, in wine, wax, and spiceries, as was customary: and that his Majesty and his nobles might exercise archery, arrow butts were constructed at the Castlehill for their accommodation. At the same time a donation in money was presented to the Justice Clerk, agreeably to the ancient practice.‡

About this time the king had formed a matrimonial alliance with Anne, second daughter of Frederic II. of Denmark, and his marriage was an event in which the nation was peculiarly interested. The Earl Marischal had been sent, at the head of a splendid embassy, to conclude the treaty of marriage at the court of that kingdom, having received powers and instructions drawn with the king's own hand. The young queen set sail for Scotland, but unfortunately a violent storm drove her fleet into Norway, which circumstance occasioned no little uneasiness to the king. He instantly fitted out some ships,
 and

* Council Register, vol. xxxii. p. 492.

† Several years afterwards the magistrates attempted to recover the money from the Earl of Angus, by an action at law before the lords of the privy council; but they found it to be a debt of the king's, and, of course, irrecoverable.—[*Council Register*, vol. xlv. 405.]

‡ Sir Lewis Bannatyne of Auchmull received seven Scottish rose nobles of gold, value 11 merks each; and his Clerks one rose noble.—[*Council Register*, vol. xxxii. p. 521.]

and sailed for Denmark, attended by the chancellor, and several noblemen, in quest of his bride. Having arrived in a port in Norway, where he found the queen, the marriage was solemnized, and he passed the remainder of the winter at the court of Denmark. During his absence, no period of his reign was more remarkable for tranquillity, or more free from those commotions which so often disturbed the nation. In order that Aberdeen might show its degree of importance in the state, and display its loyalty and attachment to its sovereign on this important occasion, the magistrates fitted out, at the expence of the community, a ship called the *Nicholas*, under the command of one of the baillies and another of the citizens, to form part of the squadron which was intended to convey their Majesties home to Scotland. The ship sailed from Aberdeen for Denmark on the 16th April, being completely armed, and decorated with "*ensigns, flags, and streamers of war, red side cloths, and gilded tops.*" At the same time there appears to have been an abundant supply of provisions, as well as of other necessaries, on board, for the entertainment of those who might happen to become visitors in the course of the voyage.*

On the 1st of May the king and queen arrived at Leith, and met with a welcome reception from their subjects. The queen's dowry, at least a portion of it, appears to have accompanied their Majesties; for, soon after, L.8000 of the money were given in loan to Aberdeen, bearing interest at the rate of 10 merks for each L.100. A considerable part of this sum was appropriated to extinguish the debt which had been contracted by the magistrates for the expence attending the visits of the king and his nobles, on previous occasions; and the remainder was advanced in loan to several of the citizens, on mortgages

* The crew consisted of thirty mariners, six of whom were expert pilots; the ordnance was six pieces of cast iron, a piece called the falconn, and another the ring dog, with powder and shot; the provisions comprehended eight barrels of salt beef, two barrels of fresh beef, four barrels of oatmeal, four barrels of keeling, one barrel of salmon, one barrel of butter, twenty-four barrels of baked oat bread, and four barrels of white biscuit; the liquors on board were one puncheon of claret, six puncheons and nineteen barrels of ale. John Collison, baillie, was appointed commander-in-chief, and David Endeauch his deputy; and L.160 were allowed them for contingent charges. The whole expence to the community amounted to L.1600, (equal to L.200 sterling).—[*Council Register*, vol. xxxiii. p. 598. 736.]

A.D. 1590. gages of their property. The money, however, does not appear to have remained long with the town. Four years afterwards L.7000 were called for, and repaid to the master of the mint; and the remaining L.1000 were, in July, 1594, paid to Sir John Carmichael, for the purpose of defraying the expence incurred at the celebration of the baptism of the young Prince Frederic Henry, Prince of Scotland, which happened in the end of August that year.*

When intelligence was brought to the town of the birth of the prince, there were great rejoicings among all ranks of the citizens. Sunday being the day appropriated to the celebration of the event, was ushered in with ringing of bells, and bonfires on the streets. After the sermon the magistrates and principal inhabitants formed a procession through the town, expressing their joy in psalmody on the happy occasion; and, what may appear remarkable in this religious æra, the remainder of the day was devoted to festivity, and to drinking wine at the cross, while a profusion of English beer was distributed among the people assembled, as usual on such occasions.†

1592. In the course of the king's progress to the north, this year, he arrived at Aberdeen on the 19th of February, and was received by the magistrates and by the principal citizens at the bridge of Dee, whither they had gone to meet him. On his arrival in the town, he was presented with an abundant supply of wine, sweetmeats, and spiceries, as was customary.‡ But, notwithstanding the liberality and attention which were shown to him by the citizens on this and previous occasions, his Majesty, being jealous of their attachment to the family of Huntly, and of their still entertaining a partiality for the ancient form of religion, was pleased to exact a singular bond from

* Council Register, vol. xxxiii. p. 736. 774. vol. xxxv. p. 357. vol. xxxvi. p. 7.

† Council Register, vol. xxxv. p. 224.

‡ One puncheon of old Bourdeaux wine, with spiceries, viz: four libs. of pepper, one half lib. of mace, four ounces of safron, one half lib. *canncl*, fourteen libs. of *suckor*, two dozen of *buistis of confectis*, one dozen *buistis of scorchtis*, one dozen of *buistis of suckor almondis*, one dozen of *buistis of confectionis*, and a chaldier of coals. The captain of his guard, at the same time, received L.200 for dispensing with the attendance of the citizens on his Majesty, in his progress northward.—[*Council Register*, vol. xxxiv. p. 665. 672.]

from the magistrates and the community, not only “for their good A.D. 1592. behaviour, and for observing the true doctrines of religion, as now established; but which also bound them not to confederate with the Earls of Huntly, Angus, Errol, Sir Patrick Gordon of Auchindown, and certain other barons of the north; nor with jesuits, priests, papists, or declared rebels.”

Meanwhile these popish lords, who were the heads of a faction which openly favoured the views of Spain, had been discovered in a conspiracy against the king. They had, for some time, been carrying on a negociation with the king of Spain, to whom they had tendered their services. It had been concerted to land a body of his troops, either in Galloway, or at the mouth of the Clyde; with which they intended, in the first place, to establish the Roman Catholic religion in Scotland, and then to make an attempt to invade England with the whole forces of the kingdom. For this and other acts of conspiracy and treason, and for their disobedience to the established church, for which they had been excommunicated, a parliament, which had been called for the purpose, declared them guilty of high treason, and their estates and honours forfeited. They now took arms against 1594. their sovereign, and speedily assembled a considerable body of men, which they had collected from their numerous vassals and dependents in the north. In this posture of affairs, the king gave a commission to the Earl of Argyle and Lord Forbes, two powerful chieftains, at enmity with the conspirators, to invade their territories, and to endeavour to subdue them. The Earl of Argyle put himself at the head of an army of 7000 men, and met the conspirators at Glenlivet, in Banffshire. The armies encountered each other, but the Oct. 3. king's forces being unable to resist the impression of the enemy's cavalry, were unfortunately defeated, and put to flight.

The king, on receiving intelligence of this disaster, accelerated his progress to Aberdeen, where he collected a small body of troops, and was joined by Lord Forbes and several barons of the county, who had remained steadily attached to his Majesty, and were at enmity with Huntly and Errol. The appearance of this force, and the defection of many of the former adherents of the conspirators, after the late battle, obliged them to seek refuge in the mountains. They

A.D. 1594. were at last reduced to extreme distress by the severity of the season, and obtained the king's permission to retire beyond seas. In the meantime their lands had been wasted, and some of their castles burnt and demolished,* while others, being taken, were garrisoned with the king's troops, to keep the country under proper subjection. The Duke of Lennox was left at Aberdeen, as his Majesty's lieutenant in the north, and tranquillity was re-established in the country. As a mean of propitiation for his favour, the magistrates presented to him a purse of L.206, and conferred upon him the freedom of the borough: in return for which he was pleased to grant a remission to the citizens, of all past offences, according to the practice of the times.

Meanwhile the magistrates of Aberdeen had continued firmly to support the king, and to promote his views, particularly with regard to those who still persevered in favouring the popish religion. Three foreign priests, the friends and advisers of the conspirators, having about this time made their appearance in the town, were seized, and committed to custody, till the king's pleasure should be known. This seems to have greatly incensed the popish lords, who not only, by violence, rescued the priests from the civil power, and set them at liberty, but denounced their heaviest vengeance against the town, threatening it with fire and sword, and other acts of hostility, which they thought proper to notify by a very singular writing, in the form of a letter, under their hands, addressed to the magistrates. This circumstance appears to have been taken up in a very alarming point of view by Queen Elizabeth's envoy in Scotland. The queen, at this time, was exceedingly watchful of the motions of King James, and entertained suspicions of his favouring the designs of these popish lords. This menacing letter was very early communicated to her Majesty,† and the matter was represented as a daring outrage against the

* The town of Aberdeen furnished masons and pioneers, with utensils and gun powder, for demolishing the castles of Strathbogie and Slains.—[*Guildry Accounts, from 1594 to 1595.*]

† *Literæ Minatoriæ, per quosdam Dominos Scoticanos Papali Religioni addictos, ad Præsidentem et Ballivos de Aberdene missæ.*

“ *Provest, Baillies, Counsall, and Communitie of Abirdene.*

“ Considering that, agains the lawis of nations, and without any ordor or justice, ze, at the apetyte of sum of our enemyes, or of indiscreet malice agains us, have tauc and imprissonit thre

the government, and the authority of the king. The battle of Glenlivet, however, having taken place soon after this occurrence, and the popish lords being completely subdued, the king acquired Elizabeth's confidence, and the town was saved from the effects of their vengeance. On the 13th of October the king came to Aberdeen, where he held his court, and remained in the town for some days. In the meantime, he was graciously pleased to dispense with the personal services of the citizens in his army, at this time in the north.

s 2

The

strangearis, gentlemen quha war cum in the cuntrie, (as we ar informit) from other Christiane Princes, to sute maist humblie at *his Majestic* our Maister sum ease of our distressed estaittis.

“Thairfor, as we have travellit with zow by all honest and faire meanis thir dayes bypast, for yair releifis, swa now we certife zow, by this present, that without thir gentilmen, with thair hail aquipage, be put to libertie, renderit and delyverit unto us, we will not onelie esteame of zow as our enemyes, in all tymes cuming, but will instantlie persew zow, zour toun, gudis, and geir, baith with fyræ and sworde, and all uther kynde of hostilitie, consisting in our possibilitis and power; and it sal be ane perpetuall querrell, to stand sa lange as our houses and posteriteis shall last.

“Thus, remitting the rest to zor jugementis and opinion, without we be instantlie satisfieit, We geve yir presentis for ane discharge of all assurances bypast, and biddis zow be at zor advantage. Written the nineteenth of July, one thousand five hundred ninety four.

“*Zors as ze deserve, ather presentlie peax or weare.*

“ANGUS.”

“HUNTLEIE.”

“ERROL.”

“AUCHINDOUN.”

DORS.—“*To the Provost, Baillies, Counsell, and Communitie of New Abirdene.*”

“*Litera ad quendam Dominum de concilio Reginæ super literis antedictis ad Abirdenenses missis.*

“*Please it your Lordship,*

“For discharge of my promise, I send heir inclosed some notes of intelligence, and the copy of a letter writtyn be the Papist Lords to the *Town of Abirdene*; which, as your *Lordship* has perused, it will please you lykewyse to impart to *her Majestic*, and be a meane and furtherance of my second audience: wherein, attending *her Majestic's* good pleasure, after I have craved pardon of this my empesching of your *Lordship*, I take leave, committing your *Lordship* to God's blissid protection.

“*London*, this morninge, the 8th of August, one thousand five hundred ninety four.

“Your *Lordship's* alwayes assured to command,

“R. COKBURN.”

Rymer's Fœdera, vol. xvi. p. 256. 257.

A.D. 1596. The Earl of Huntly and the other popish lords having found it necessary publicly to acknowledge their spiritual errors, and their transgressions against the king, and quietly to submit to the established authority both of the church and state, were received into the bosom of the former, and to the favour of his Majesty. It was not, however, till after a long and serious conference with the ministers of religion at Aberdeen, that Huntly was convinced of his spiritual errors. Having made an ample confession on the 22d March, he was absolved from the sentence of excommunication,* which had been passed against him; and, in the end of May thereafter, he obtained a free pardon from his sovereign, who restored to him his estates and honours, and soon after advanced him to the dignity of Marquis of Huntly, on the occasion of solemnizing the baptism of the Princess Margaret.

This ancient and illustrious family had been held, for several ages, in great favour by the community of Aberdeen. In the middle of the fifteenth century, the Earl of Huntly and the citizens were united in a bond of man-rent, for their mutual support and defence. In the present century the Earl of Huntly filled the office of chief magistrate of the town, and was permitted to make choice of his own council, in opposition to the powerful influence of the Menzies', who, for many years, had directed the administration of its civil affairs. In the year 1568 the magistrates, in name of the community, presented to George, late Earl of Huntly,† a purse of 500 merks, for his private services to the town. In the year 1572 he was presented with 600 merks, for similar services, and as a token of their sincere regard for the family.‡ In the year 1582 the freedom of the borough had been conferred on the present Earl, his son, and also on forty of his friends, chiefly barons of the county: and, on the arrival
1598. of the Earl at Aberdeen, about this time, accompanied with the Duke

* Spottiswood, p. 443.

† He died upon the 20th October, 1576, and was succeeded by his son George, then 16 years of age.—[*Register of Baptisms and Burials*, vol. i.]

‡ Council Register, vol. xxvi. p. 613. vol. xxvii. p. 765.

Duke of Lennox, all former animosities between Huntly and the citizens being now buried in perpetual oblivion, he was received with the greatest marks of respect by the magistrates, and by the citizens; and presents of wines and sweet-meats were made, both to him and the Duke of Lennox, as tokens of their esteem.* A.D. 1598,

In the month of April, this year, the king having paid a visit to the town, attended by his court, the citizens voted to him a liberal present of 3000 merks, in money; and also wine, spiceries, and sweetmeats, on the occasion, to the value of 550 merks more. In the subsequent month of May, the queen made a visit to the town, for the first time, and was received with every mark of attention and respect due to her. The expence incurred on this occasion, for presents and entertainments to her Majesty, and her attendants, amounted to no less than L.1838 6s. 8d.,† which, with the charge of the king's visit, was raised by an assessment on the citizens, in the usual manner.‡ 1600.

At the close of the sixteenth century, such was the unsettled state of the country, and the disregard which was shown to the laws, that the town and neighbourhood were often oppressed by the highlanders from Birse, Glentanner, and other parts of the country. Being strangers to industry, averse from labour, and unrestrained by law, they committed their depredations in bodies, carrying off cattle and other property as their spoil; and not unfrequently, when they met with resistance, murdered men, women, and children, in the course of their predatory excursions. The inhabitants of the town were, therefore, kept constantly on the alert, and obliged to have recourse to arms, to defend their own and their neighbour's property from these lawless freebooters.§

The mysterious affair of the conspiracy against the life of King James, by John Ruthven, Earl of Gowrie, and his brother Alexander, which

* The wines consisted of *hullock* and *tent*, &c.—Council Register, vol. xxxviii. p. 177.

† Amounting together to L.384 4s. sterling money.

‡ Council Register, vol. xxxix. p. 502. 584.

§ Ibid. vol. xxxiv. p. 910.

A.D. 1600. which happened at this time, and is so well known in history, created no little sensation in the minds of the citizens of Aberdeen, whose loyalty and attachment to their sovereign was particularly distinguished. The event was commemorated this year by the magistrates and the citizens, on the 5th of August, which was appropriated as a day of thanksgiving. On this occasion they formed a procession through the streets, manifesting, in psalmody, their joy at the miraculous escape of the king from the hands of the treasonable conspirators. The cross was decorated with tapestry, and the remainder of the day was devoted to drinking wine profusely at the cross, as was customary. In order to express their abhorrence of the attempt which had been made on the life of their sovereign, the magistrates requested Thomas Cargill, rector of the grammar school, to compose an address in Latin, which was presented to his Majesty, and graciously received. For this performance Mr. Cargill received from the magistrates a remuneration of L.20.*

1603. While tranquillity prevailed at home among all ranks of men, this year was particularly distinguished by the union of the two crowns of Scotland and England, in the person of James VI. the last King of Scots. King James being now called to the throne of England, on the death of Queen Elizabeth, the last of the family of Tudor, the more considerate foresaw that important advantages were likely to result from an union betwixt the two nations, which, though they were separated only by an imaginary line, and destined to form one great monarchy, had been long at variance, and engaged in almost perpetual hostilities. When intelligence of this event, so momentous to the country, was brought to the town, there were great rejoicings and gratulations among all ranks of the citizens. The magistrates assembled the inhabitants in the church-yard, by sound of trumpet and beat of drum, in order to receive the joyful tidings; bonfires were made upon the streets by the people; the cross, as usual, was decorated; and the bells continued to ring, at intervals, during the course of the day. The younger citizens, able to bear arms, were exercised in

* Council Register, vol. xl. p. 106. 179.

in firing vollies with their *hagbuts*; and the latter part of the day was celebrated by the most respectable inhabitants with a profusion of wine, which was consumed at the cross, the glasses being cast, as was customary on days of rejoicing. The magistrates took the earliest opportunity to express their congratulations to the king on his accession to the English throne, and their unalterable attachment to his Majesty, in the form of an address, which he graciously received; and, in return, transmitted to them a letter, expressive of his affection and regard for the town and the community. In the immediate subsequent year he honoured them with another letter to the same purport, which was communicated to the citizens, assembled in a head court, in the usual manner.* A.D. 1603.

Although James had now been absent from Scotland for upwards of fourteen years, yet at no period of his eventful reign had his authority been more regarded by his subjects in that kingdom, or peace and tranquillity more completely established, than since his accession to the throne of England. At the same time, the administration of public affairs had been conducted with an order and moderation to which the nation had been little accustomed in the former part of his reign. This and the daily proofs which the king gave of his partiality and friendship towards the people, secured their dutiful obedience both to him and his government. But, for some time past, James had entertained a design of making certain changes of ecclesiastical discipline and government, in Scotland, particularly with regard to the extending of episcopal authority, the introducing a few ceremonies into public worship, and the establishing a superiority in the civil above the ecclesiastical jurisdiction. With this view, and in order to renew his ancient friendships and connections, the king had resolved to visit his native country in the summer of this year. Having repaired to Edinburgh, the magistrates of Aberdeen received early intelligence, by letter, from the lords of the privy council, of his intentions to remain for sometime in Scotland for his "*sport and game*." They were, at the same time, advised, that he proposed 1617.

* Council Register, vol. xli. p. 360. 805.

A.D. 1617. proposed to make a progress to the north, with his attendants, in the course of which he intended “to pay a visit to the chief boroughs of the kingdom, particularly Aberdeen; which, being among the best, his Majesty was so much the more anxious that all things be so orderly provided there, that there appear no marks of incivility, or token of penury and scant; and, therefore, recommending that lodgings be prepared in the most handsome, civil, and courtly manner, with good bedding, well washed and well smelled *napperie*, clear and clean vessels, of sufficient largeness, plenty of provisions and vivers; the streets to be kept clear of *beggars* and *middings*.” This minutely detailed dispatch being communicated to the citizens, assembled in their head court, they most cheerfully promised the strictest observance of the injunctions which had been given, and arranged matters accordingly. However well prepared they may have been for the reception of the royal party, they were extremely mortified by the disappointment which they met with, in not being honoured with a visit from his Majesty on this occasion. The king, although he was in the neighbourhood, at a hunting excursion, did not gratify the citizens with his presence; but many of his attendants repaired to the town, where they were received with the greatest marks of attention and respect. Here they remained for sometime, and were hospitably entertained, at the expence of the community. The magistrates conferred upon them the freedom of the town;* and that nothing might be deficient, in the way of respect to the king, David Wedderburn, rector of the grammar school, was requested by the magistrates to compose a poetical address, in Latin, complimentary of his Majesty for honouring the kingdom with his presence at this time,

* The following attendants of the King were admitted burgesses of guild on this occasion:—Sir Thomas Gerard, Baronet, Gentleman of his Majesty's Privy Chamber; Sir Thomas Puiridok, one of his Majesty's *Sellars*; Sir Edward Zutche, one of the Gentlemen of the Privy Chamber; Sir George Gorine, Lieutenant of his Majesty's Pensioners; Sir John Leid, Sir Theobald Gorges, Gentlemen Ushers of his Majesty's Privy Chamber; Dr. Chalmers, Physician to his Majesty; George Spence, Esq. one of his Carvers; Francis Knightlie, one of his Cupbearers; Thomas Stephaine, Cupbearer Extraordinary; David Ray, one of his Majesty's Body Guard; James Auchmuty, Patrick Abercrombie, Richard Caulvele, Grooms of the Privy Chamber; Adam Hill, Page to his Majesty's Privy Chamber; John Freyand, Serjeant at Arms; Duncan Primrose, Serjeant Surgeon; John Wolfsumla, Apothecary; and Archibald Armstrong.—[*Council Register*, vol. xlviii. p. 110.]

time, and which appears to have been graciously received. For this work Mr. Wedderburn received a present of fifty merks, in money, from the treasurer. Before James returned to England he granted a renovation of the ancient charters of the borough, by which he confirmed, in the most ample manner, all the former rights, privileges, and immunities of the citizens. The charter of confirmation is dated at Faulkland, 17th July.* This was the only visit which King James made to his native kingdom, and, having accomplished the objects which he had in view by his journey, he returned to England, where he died a few years afterwards, being succeeded by his unfortunate son Charles. A.D. 1617.

This year Thomas Menzies of Durn, provost of the town, was delegated to repair to the court of England, on a mission concerning some civil affairs of the community. Being introduced to King James, he was graciously received, and had the honour of knighthood conferred upon him in his Majesty's privy chamber. On this occasion Sir Thomas presented to the king a pearl, which had been found in a muscle shell, in the brook of Kelly, which runs into the river Ythan. It was considered by the jewellers of Edinburgh as the most valuable that had been seen at that time; and, according to tradition, it holds a place in the imperial crown of Britain.† In return, the king granted to him certain lands near Dunfermline, and the custom of merchant goods in Aberdeen, during his life. Sir Thomas, however, enjoyed these honours and property, which had been bestowed upon him by the king, for a very short time, having died at Wooler, on his return homeward, in the end of September, after he had been, in his absence, re-elected provost for the ensuing year.‡ 1620.

About this time the town was put under considerable alarm by the appearance of a Spanish fleet upon this coast, to the number of fourteen sail of the line. This fleet had probably been fitted out by Spain, in consequence of the attack which had been made upon Cadiz, 1626.

T

* Council Register, vol. xlviii. p. 169. 177.—Archives of the Town.

† History of Aberdeen, in 1685, by *Philopoliteus*, p. 238, 239.

‡ Council Register, vol. xlix. p. 737.

A.D. 1626. diz by the English fleet, under Sir Edward Cecil, lately created Viscount Wimbleton, and which had completely failed in its object, from the improper conduct of the army. The appearance of so numerous a fleet on the coast of Scotland being an unusual circumstance, the magistrates put the town in a proper posture of defence, lest the enemy should attempt a landing. Six pieces of iron ordnance, weighing 3500 lbs. each, were provided, with a proper supply of ammunition, for the blockhouse; and the citizens were mustered and trained to arms, under Captain Hurrie; but the fleet having disappeared, and no hostile attacks being attempted upon any part of the coast, the alarm subsided, and a treaty of peace was soon after concluded between England and Spain.

1633. This year King Charles repaired to Scotland, attended by his court, in order to hold a parliament there, and to go through the ceremony of coronation. The nobility and gentry vied with each other in manifesting their attachment and regard to their sovereign on this occasion, not anticipating the many calamitous events which were so speedily to follow. The magistrates of Aberdeen did not neglect to contribute to the splendour of the solemnity, as far as in their power. They delegated Paul Menzies, their provost, and Patrick Leslie, one of the baillies, to represent the town, both in parliament and at the coronation.* For defraying their charges, the sum of 3000 merks was voted, to be paid to them from the treasury funds; and the dean of guild had been previously directed to advance 200 franks, for purchasing *confections*, to be tendered to his Majesty on his arrival in Scotland. The provost, on his being presented to the king, had the honour of knighthood conferred upon him, as a mark of his Majesty's regard to the town.

MISCELLANEOUS

* The provost's charger, at the coronation, was equipped with a silk mantle, ornamented with velvet, and fringed, small *pesments*, and pear buttons, the expense of which was L.121 6s. The charge of the saddle, harnessing, bridle-bit, and stirrup-irons, was L.80 8s. 4d. These appointments are preserved in the town's armoury to this day. Drs. William Forbes and Robert Barron, two of the ministers of the town, attended the ceremony of the coronation, and preached before the king, by order of the Archbishop of St. Andrew's.—[*Council Register*, vol. li. p. 204. 442.]

MISCELLANEOUS OCCURRENCES IN ABERDEEN,

FROM THE YEAR 1557 TO 1633.

- 1557 Bridge over the Denburn, of two arches, was ordered to be built
 — Saint Nicholas Market was proclaimed, to be held within the town yearly, for fifteen days, posterior to the 15th of October
 — Thomas Menzies, provost, and David Marr, baillie, were delegated to repair to Edinburgh, to treat and conclude concerning Queen Mary's marriage with Francis, Dauphin of France
- 1560 One half net of the Fishings of Don was leased, for one year, for seventeen barrels of salmon; one eighth part of the Cruives, for nine barrels; one third part for eleven barrels; one half net of the Pot, for six barrels; and one half net of the Raik, for twenty barrels
- 1565 Sir Patrick Lermond of Dersy, Andrew Wood of Largo, Andrew Wood, younger, Alexander Trail of Blabo, Andrew Murray of Baward, William Lunday, son and heir of — Lunday of that ilk, surrendered themselves, in the lodgings of David Marr, baillie, as prisoners, in terms of the King and Queen's letters
 — The Town Serjeants were ordered to receive yearly 4s. from every burges of guild, and 2s. from every artificer, for their Christmas fees
 — Twelve tons of Wine were demanded, for account of the King and Queen, from the merchants of the town, of an importation from Bourdeaux
- 1568 The pestilence raged in Edinburgh and Montrose
 — A ship belonging to Thomas Nicolson, merchant, was lost on the coast of Holland, and himself and seventeen other merchants of Aberdeen perished on board
- 1571 The Streets without the Ports were ordered to be paved and repaired
- 1574 John Ewyne, burges of Aberdeen, was convicted of coining, and hanged and beheaded
 — Gilbert Knowles, elder burges, and Gilbert Knowles, his son, were slain, near the Cruives, by James Gordon, brother to the Laird of Abergeldie, 1st December
- 1576 The first day of May being attended with a tempestuous storm of snow and rain, from the W.N.W. was now called *evil May-day*
- 1577 A Comet, or blazing Star, appeared in the West on the 13th November, and continued to be seen every evening, for one month
 — Adam Donaldson beheaded, 25th May, for the slaughter of John Tawse, 30th April
- 1578 A tempestuous storm, on Tuesday 25th March, from S.W. and N.N.W. occasioned much damage to the Church and to the houses in the town
 — Patrick Johnston, son to Mr. George Johnston, baillie, was slain by Keith of Ludquharn
 — The Town Serjeants ordered to carry daily their halberts on their shoulders, with swords
- 1579 A contribution of 100 merks was made by the inhabitants, for the support and relief of prisoners at Morocco, who had been taken by the Turks
 — Thomas Wright, servant to Lord Forbes, was beheaded 28th May, for slaying a servant of the Laird of Gartly
- 1580 Alex. Innes, Laird of Crombie, was slain at Martin Howieson's house, by the Laird of Invermarkie, in a private quarrel
 — Alex. Menzies, son to Gilbert Menzies, provost, was slain by William Forbes of Portlethen, at the Loch of Lowerston

- 1582 Walter Innes, servant to the Laird of Glenkindy, was slain in Aberdeen, by John Jack
- 1584 The pestilence raged in several towns and places in the South. For preventing its infection among the inhabitants, they were prohibited from receiving or lodging any strangers. A gibbet was ordered to be erected at the cross, another at the Bridge of Dee, and another at the harbour mouth; and if any infected persons arrived by sea or land, or if any inhabitant received or harboured them, or gave them meat or drink, the men were adjudged to be hanged, and the women to be drowned
- Alex. Keith of Auquhorsk was slain by John Chalmers of Balbithan
- William Guild, son to Matthew Guild, armourer, was slain by John Leslie, son to James Leslie, burgess
- Alex. Anderson, one of the poor in St. Thomas' Hospital, was slain by Alex. Blyndcele, 8th February
- Alex. Blyndcele was convicted for this crime, and publicly drowned at the Quayhead, 18th February
- 1585 Margaret, Anne, and Marion Duncan, convicted of receiving and giving meat to strangers suspected of the pestilence, were adjudged to be punished with death; but pardoned by the magistrates, on the solicitation of Sir William Ker and Sir Robert Maxwell, and ordained to be banished during the pleasure of the Town Council
- 1586 John Greyne, and ——— Ogilvie, his wife, Marion Lyon, spouse of Archibald Douglas, and Katharine Steven, were convicted of poisoning a child begotten in adultery. John Greyne was hanged and quartered, and his head fixed upon the Justice Port; and the women were publicly drowned
- 1587 Twenty-four Watchmen appointed for protecting the town from depredations during the night, to continue from eight at night till five o'clock in the morning
- Elspeth Mychall, spouse to Patrick Mavor, burgess, was convicted of child murder, and publicly drowned at the Quayhead, 27th March
- John Keith of Clackriach was cruelly slain, at the Justice Port, by William Gordon of Gight
- 1588 John Wischart, Cordwainer, was slain by James Spaldeston, Hangman, who was hanged for the crime, and his head fixed on the Justice Port
- 1589 George Nasmith murdered in the town on 20th February
- Tempestuous storm, on the evening of Friday, 16th of January, from W.S.W. blew down the steeple of the Tolbooth, and the steeple of the Cathedral, Old Aberdeen
- 1590 Forty soldiers furnished by the town to the Earl of Huntly's army, sent to subdue Lauchlan McIntosh, and other highland rebels
- Forty hagbutters furnished by the town to the Earl Marischal, to enable him to recover the House of Deer, taken possession of by Mr. Robert Keith
- Alex. Taylor appointed Public Post by the Magistrates, for carrying dispatches. He was clothed in blue, with the town's arms on the right sleeve of his coat
- 1591 Patrick Bisset, son to Mr. Gilbert Bisset, slain by Alexander Anderson
- 1592 John Johnston slain in the tumult, 27th September
- The Dean of Guild was appointed Procurator Fiscal for the town
- 1593 A Market was ordered to be held in the town, for Merchandize, for Horse, Nolt, Sheep, &c. to endure for eight days
- 1594 ——— Douglas and ——— Litster, two malefactors, were executed this year
- 1595 John Justice was appointed Executioner, by the Town Council, for executing the sentences of banishment, scourging, burning, tormenting, or otherwise punishing malefactors
- Meal Market ordered to be built, of wood, on the East end of the Tolbooth

- 1595 Back Wynd laid out, on the West side of the Church-yard
- 1596 Andrew Brown, Robert Laird, John Johnston, and Robert Bruce, were executed at the Blockhouse, for piracy of a ship of Bruntisland
- 1598 A contribution was made by the citizens for the relief of the inhabitants of the town of Haddington, which had been destroyed by accidental fire
- 1601 The Spring of this year was remarkable for stormy weather. On the 25th March the ground was neither laboured nor sown; and the cattle died through want of provender
- 1603 A warrant was sent to the Magistrates, from the Lords of the Privy Council, to apprehend Sir Griffin Markham, William Watson, and William Clark, Priests, who had attempted to take the life of King James
- 1604 A quota of sixteen men ordered from the town, to join the King's forces in besieging Dumbreck House, by order of the Privy Council
- Notice was sent by the Privy Council to the Magistrates of the pestilence raging in North Berwick, Prestonpans, and Edinburgh; on which account the Court of Session had adjourned on 24th June
- Patent for opening a Stone Quarry, within the freedom lands, granted to John Mason, for five years, for supplying the inhabitants with stones for doors and windows
- 1605 Alex. Rutherford, late Provost, was sent, as one of the four Commissioners from the boroughs, to England, concerning the Union proposed between the two kingdoms
- Intelligence of the Gunpowder Plot arrived in the town on the 13th of November, which was kept as a day of thanksgiving, &c.
- 1607 A watch of twelve persons appointed, for protecting the town during the night time
- Margaret Panton, convicted by a Jury of thirteen persons of blasphemy and fornication, and banished from the town for life
- 1608 A shock of an earthquake was felt in the town on Tuesday the 8th of November, about 9 o'clock in the evening
- The pestilence which raged in Dundee, Perth, and other places in the South, broke out and raged in Torrie; and the *Cleanger* was ordered to burn the dead bodies
- 1613 Startonius, a German, was executed abroad for an infamous libel against the *whole Scottish nation*. The expence of the prosecution, being L.600 sterling, was claimed from the boroughs of Scotland; and Aberdeen was charged for its proportion, by order of the king
- Flesh-house ordered to be built on the North side of the Castlestreet
- 1615 Alexander Rutherford, Provost, having died in office, the new and old Councils resolved that no new election should take place till Michaelmas; in the meantime, that the senior Baillie should act as *Moderator* or *Chancellor*
- The Town Serjeants, being five in number, ordered to be clothed in the town's livery, being a *Juip*, of red *staiming*, with the town's arms embroidered thereon
- 1616 The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland met at Aberdeen on the 13th August, the Earl of Montrose being the High Commissioner
- 1617 James Craighead, Flesher, was pilloried at the cross, crowned with a paper label, and banished the town, for insulting one of the Baillies, by saying, " My malediction I give to
" Baillie Gray, by all the Baillies of Aberdeen: I am as honest and true as any of
" his kin."
- 1618 The great stone, called Knock Maitland, was removed from the harbour mouth by David Anderson
- 1619 Military muster of the inhabitants was made on the 9th of August, in the Links, when there appeared 550 fensible men. They were armed with two-handed swords; the

- pike and spearmen in two separate divisions, and the *hagbutters* in another. Those who were absent being fined L.5 each
- 1619 The Duke of Lennox arrived in the town, and was received by the citizens with military honours, 12th August
- 1620 Sir Thomas Menzies, Provost, having died in office, David Rutherford was elected in his place
- 1621 Two Corn Mills were erected in the flood-mark, near the Quayhead
- Patent for curing smoky Chimnies granted by the Town Council to John Watson, for three years
- 1624 The town of Dunfermline destroyed by accidental fire 25th May; 220 houses, occupied by 287 families, burnt to the ground, also 500 bolls of grain burnt in barns.—L.1600 contributed by Aberdeen towards the relief of the sufferers
- 1626 Troops for Germany levied by Colonel M'Kay, in the town
- 1628 Ship of war, called the Thistle, under the command of James Auchmowtie, put into the harbour by stress of weather, and 1300 merks advanced to him by the magistrates, for supplies to the ship and crew
- 1632 Bridge over Buxburn ordered to be built
- Proposals for bringing fountain water into the town sanctioned by the Head Court; and the Craftsmen agreed to contribute 1000 merks towards the expence
- 1633 Coronation of King Charles celebrated in the town with bonfires, firing of 12 pieces of ordnance, and drinking two puncheons of wine at the Cross.

These Miscellaneous Occurrences, as well as those mentioned in the end of the preceding Chapter, have been collected from the Council Register, the Registers of Baptisms and Burials for St. Nicholas Church, from the Journals of the Church Session, and other authentic documents.

CHAPTER IV.

SECTION II.

Proceedings of the Citizens at the annual visitation of the Public Lands, &c.—Patrimony of the Borough given off in fee farm—Constitution of the several Corporations of Artificers, &c.—Struggle between them and the Burgesses of Guild—Common Indenture—Proceedings between the Burgesses of Guild and the Administrators of the Town—Tumultuous proceedings, &c.—Decree arbitral of King James—Decree of the Convention of Boroughs, fixing the set of Aberdeen—Plague—Leprosy—Witchcraft, and Punishments—Ancient Games, &c. fall into disuse—Modern Plays—Printing—Benevolent Aids—Feasting—Disposition of the people—Church Session—Ancient Customs continued—Funerals, &c.—Municipal Laws—Commerce, and indication of Manufactures—Coinage in circulation—Punishments—Dress, &c.—Population—Surnames—Tables of Births and Burials, &c.—of Contributions to the State, &c.—and of Prices of Provisions, &c.

FROM A.D. 1559 TO A.D. 1633.

IN conformity to our plan, we shall stop for a while in the narrative of public events, in order to revert to those local matters which occurred during the present æra. In reviewing these, we shall, at the same time, present a sketch of the manners and customs still in observance among the people.

From an early period, the citizens would seem to have been extremely tenacious of those ancient possessions, which we have already had occasion to enumerate, belonging to the community. At the same time, it would appear, that, for a long period of years, prudence and economy had directed the administrators in the management of the revenue arising from these, as far as circumstances would permit.

The

The boundaries of the lands being very extensive, were generally surveyed, once every year, by the magistrates, accompanied with the younger citizens, who were able to ride.* They perambulated the line of marches, to see that the land-marks were duly preserved, and that no encroachments had been made by conterminous proprietors. On these occasions it was customary to remind the young citizens, on their first visit, of the occurrences of the day, in a peculiar manner, which is in recollection at the present time; and the remainder of the day was devoted to mirth and festivity. This annual perambulation prevailed for ages, but is only now in observance probably once in every five years. These lands, with the salmon fishings of the rivers Dee and Don, previously to the Reformation, had generally been let, from time to time, by the magistrates and town council, with the approbation of the community, on short leases, to burgesses of guild *only*, at a small yearly rent. A grassum, or fine, however, was generally paid by the tenants, on the renewal of the leases, and applied to the exigencies of the borough. On certain occasions the leases were bestowed on some individual, as a recompense or gratuity for services, either real or supposed, which had been performed to the community. This mode of management enabled the magistrates to support the dignity of the town; to gratify their sovereigns in the way of presents, on their frequent visits; and to answer other objects, connected with their administration. In the year 1551, a project was devised, conducted with much dexterity, and carried into effect, which was the means of bereaving the community of every benefit that might arise to it, from these lands and fishings, in future ages. In furtherance of the scheme, certain individuals, who had obtained places in the administration of the town, influenced the citizens to concur in an application which was made to the crown for a new charter, to enable the magistrates and community to alienate the property, in the way of feu, or fee hold. In this age, money was the sure means of accomplishing any thing of this nature that might have

* Some of these boundaries are nearly seven miles from the cross. In the line of these there were, and probably still are, certain stones, against which the young citizens, on their first visit, were forced, *a posteriori*, to remind them of these occurrences.

have been required from the crown : accordingly 2500 merks being raised by the magistrates, were paid to the executive government at the time, as a composition for a royal grant in the terms which were suggested. A new charter was then obtained, under the great seal, upon the 4th March, 1551, which enabled the magistrates, town council, and community, to give off the lands and fishings in the way of feu and in fee simple, by which means the designs of those who had projected the scheme were so far accomplished.

As soon as this charter had been expedited, no time was neglected in parcelling out the whole of these salmon fishings and the greater part of the lands, among certain burgesses of guild, in fee simple, on payment of a small consideration in money, and for a stipulated annual feu duty, or quit rent ; but under this express condition, that the vassals should always be “ burgesses, actual *indwellers* of the town, frequenting and using exercise of merchandize,” *roman-kind* being particularly excepted.* This restriction continued till of

u

late

* TABLE, showing the Feu Duties and Compositions for the grants of the Lands and Salmon Fishings belonging to Aberdeen, as fixed by the Head Court of the Citizens, 4th March, 1551.

SALMON FISHINGS.

	<i>Annual Feu Duty.</i>	<i>Composition.</i>
The Fishings on Dee, Raik, five and one half nets, -	L.89 14 10	L.484 0 0
..... Midchingle, five nets -	81 10 0	266 13 4
..... three thirds part -	0 0 0	53 6 9
..... Pot, six nets -	49 0 0	268 0 0
..... Fords, seven and one half nets -	25 2 6	165 0 0
The Fishings on Don, two nets -	0 0 0	172 0 0
..... three thirds part, 43 merks each -	58 16 0	86 0 0
..... Cruives, three sixths part, 44 merks each	12 10 0	176 0 0
..... four eighths part, 22 merks each	12 10 0	176 0 0

LANDS.

The Garden -	L.40 0 0	L.27 0 0
The Lands of Shedocksley -	53 6 8	26 13 4
..... the Tulloch -	4 0 0	18 0 0
..... the Kingswells -	26 13 4	17 0 0
..... the Foresterhill -	20 0 0	12 13 4
..... the Cruives -	40 0 0	20 13 4

The

late years, when it was taken off, under certain conditions, in consequence of an act of the town council; and the property may now be held by any person, as vassal. The project of alienating the property, in the manner which has been just mentioned, was not brought to maturity without considerable opposition from several of the citizens; but a very great majority of the community having favoured the scheme, completely over-ruled this opposition, in a head court. The supreme civil court was afterwards resorted to by the few who opposed the measure, for reducing these transactions, which they conceived to be prejudicial to the community; but the tardiness of law proceedings, the heavy expence attending them, with some undue influence which seems to have been used, put an end to the contest; and all further opposition was withdrawn.* By this inconsiderate act, the borough and community were deprived of a most invaluable branch of public revenue for ever, while individual families have been enriched by reaping the fruits arising from the property, so alienated. But this is not the only grievance which attended these alienations; it has often been a subject of extreme regret to the subsequent administrators of the town, who, when any attempts were made to improve the town or the harbour, invariably found their plans and designs thwarted by the jealousy of the vassals in possession of the property: and, on pretence of the intended operations being pregnant with injury to their fishings, or other property, the improvements in view have often been retarded, and not unfrequently abandoned altogether. These circumstances, however, were not anticipated at the time when the alienations were made; and, therefore, no provision was introduced into the feu charters to guard against any contingencies of this nature. But, however much these transactions may, in the present age, be the subject of regret, the alienations

					<i>Annual Feu Duty.</i>	<i>Composition.</i>
The Lands of the Kingshill	-	-	-	-	L.1 6 8	L.6 13 4
..... Bogfairly	-	-	-	-	44 13 4	22 0 0
..... Rubislaw	-	-	-	-	20 0 0	26 0 0
..... Hessilhead	-	-	-	-	13 6 8	18 0 0

Council Register, vol. xxi. p. 109. 141.

* Council Register, vol. xxi. p. 109. 141. 728. 852.

alienations had certainly the concurrence of a very great majority of the community. The situation of the times, the dawn of reformation, and many other circumstances combined, may have operated upon the minds of our ancestors, and influenced them to adopt this scheme, which they, perhaps, thought, would be equally advantageous to the community as to themselves.

In the course of the sixteenth century, the political constitution of the several corporations of artificers in the town appears to have been recognised and sanctioned by the magistrates and town council, at different periods, in the form of acts of council and seals of cause. The Bakers were, from an early period, under the cognizance of the magistrates. In the year 1458, eleven of them in number were permitted to exercise their trade, and to impress upon their bread their distinguishing signatures, or peculiar marks; but it was not till the year 1532 that they were fully recognised as a corporation. In this year they were enjoined by an act of council to choose their deacons, which order was complied with, by electing two of their number to that office, and reporting them to the magistrates for their approbation and sanction. The Cordwainers seem to have been of longer standing. In the year 1484, the magistrates and council passed an act which annulled the powers and privileges which had formerly been granted to their deacons; and resolved to *correct* them in future, according to their faults.* In 1519, the Hammermen were incorporated by the magistrates, council, and community, by a seal of cause,† which conferred upon them the power of electing their deacon, with certain other privileges and immunities. The Tailors, subsequently to the year 1511, were in the practice of electing their deacon; but they were not established as a corporation until the year 1532, when they obtained their seal of cause,‡ which gave them powers and privileges similar to those which had been granted to the Hammermen. As early as the year 1449, we find that Robert of Petit and William Hunter were chosen and sworn by the magistrates

U 2

deacons

* Council Register, vol. vi. p. 848.

† Ibid. vol. x. p. 112. vol. xiv. p. 109.

‡ Council Register, vol. xiv. p. 198.

deacons of the Weavers, and *searchers* of all the *webster* craft.* In the year 1527, the Wrights, Coopers, and Masons, obtained their seal of cause,† in the same terms with those which had been granted to the Hammermen and to the Tailors. The Fleshers, the only other corporation, appear to have been recognized in this character by the town council, in the year 1532. They elected Andrew Lawson their deacon, who was approved by the magistrates.‡ In the year 1537, the Barbers, or *leechers*, (surgeons) obtained their seal of cause,§ which established them into a corporation, in the same manner as the artificers. By this grant it is declared, that the deacon shall be responsible to the magistrates for the proper conduct of the whole members. But at no period do they seem to have had any concern in the election of the magistrates, or in the political affairs of the borough. The Masons seem to have separated from the Wrights and Coopers at an early period, and do not now form part of that corporation. All the corporations, with the exception of the Barbers, previously to the year 1533, appear to have had some undefined direction in those public affairs. In this year an act of council was passed, declaratory of the extent of the powers of the artificers. It was declared, that they were to have no vote in the ordinary administration of the borough, or in the elections; and their deacons, in the town council, were to be chosen annually by the provost, baillies, and council.|| These topics, however, we shall have occasion to review more fully afterwards, in another branch of this work.

After the period of the reformation, the minds of men, in regard to civil government, were much changed by the doctrines which were daily preached and promulgated; and the people, animated with more liberal and enlarged sentiments, began to assert their civil rights with a freedom and boldness to which they had formerly been unaccustomed. The members of the corporations, influenced, perhaps, by these principles, conceived that their privileges embraced more extensive powers in the political constitution of the borough than

* Council Register, vol. v. p. 749.

† Ibid. vol. xii. p. 208.

‡ Ibid. vol. xiii. p. 463.

§ Council Register, vol. xv. p. 352.

|| Ibid. vol. xiv. p. 284. vol. xv. p. 353.

than what they did actually possess, or what the magistrates and burgesses of guild were inclined to concede. Some years after the passing of the act of parliament, in the year 1555, concerning the privileges of craftsmen or artificers in the constitution of the several royal boroughs of the kingdom, the craftsmen of Aberdeen began to assume certain privileges which were denied them by the magistrates. In the vindication of these, they excited considerable commotions in the town, threw off all obedience to their authority, and were the means of occasioning much ferment and disorder in the community. In the year 1565, they first began to form combinations, and to assemble, in hostile array, particularly on Sunday, under two captains, dignified with the ancient title of *Robin Hood* and *Little John*, having determined to assume to themselves privileges which were not recognised by the legislature. In order to suppress these disorders, and to enforce due obedience to the administrators of the town, a writ from the queen was obtained, which approved of the conduct of the magistrates in enforcing the late act of parliament, and commanded "all seditious craftsmen, such as cutlers, baxters, saddlers, sword slippers, cordwainers, blacksmiths, goldsmiths, coopers, barbers, and others, within the town, to submit to the authority of their magistrates."* This had, for a time, the desired effect, and tranquillity appears to have been, for some years, established in the town. In the year 1579, however, these artificers thought proper again to stimulate popular disorders in the community; and, with this view, to hold tumultuous assemblies, on the 25th December, which they devoted to feasting and playing; and declined their ordinary employments on this day. They conceived that they had now a right to assume the privileges of burgesses of guild, and to exercise merchandize within the town. They even carried matters still farther, by applying directly to the king and the lords of the privy council, and by some means or other obtained a sanction to their pretensions. This was considered as an infringement of the ancient privileges of the burgesses of guild, which they could not well endure. It was, therefore, strenuously opposed by the magistrates, who punished the transgressors

* Council Register, vol. xxv. p. 589.

sors by pecuniary fines, and by disfranchisement, under the established laws of the borough; and the artificers, at length, thought proper to depart from this assumption of privileges, which they confessed had been rash and inconsiderate. At the same time, they promised to restrict themselves to the exercise of their own respective trades; and to submit, with all due obedience, to the authority of the magistrates. Tranquillity was thus again restored in the community, although the refractory deacons, on some occasions, declined to give their votes in the town council.*

In the year 1587 this important question was again agitated between the craftsmen and burgesses of guild, but without that rancour and animosity manifested on former occasions. They assembled together in amity in St. Nicholas Church, with a view to conciliate matters between them; an arbitration of mutual friends was proposed, and cordially acquiesced in by both parties, and those private enmities and popular commotions which had subsisted so long in the town were now happily terminated. This arbitration gave rise to the decree arbitral, which is so well known, and distinguished by the title of the *Common Indenture*, and which distinctly defines the respective privileges of the guild brethren and artificers. By this award it is declared, that no craftsman can be allowed to exercise commerce under the privileges of the town, except in particular circumstances, unless he first renounce his *craft*, and be admitted a burgess of guild in the usual manner.†

A short time after these occurrences had happened, a schism broke out between the leading members of the town council and the burgesses of guild; but, before we proceed to relate this event, and the causes which led to it, it may not be deemed improper to premise some account of the leading men then in the administration, as well as of the political state of the borough at the time.

For a period of more than a century, the administration of the civil affairs of the town had been under the direction of an opulent family,

* Council Register, vol. xxx. p. 74. 492.

† Ibid. vol. xxxii. p. 233, et seq.

family, of much consideration in the place, and distinguished by its ample domains in the county. The chiefs of this family had successively enjoyed the office of provost, during that long period, almost without interruption, and apparently to the satisfaction of the community; while, at the same time, they possessed the confidence of their sovereigns. Many of their friends and connexions, of course, filled the other departments in the town council. The office of town clerk, which, even at this time, was considered to be of great importance, had been hereditary in the family since the year 1502, when it was acquired, from the council and community, for the behoof of the eldest son of the provost then in office. It had been purchased for the small consideration of forty merks, a salary of twelve merks yearly being annexed to it.* The clerk who had been so appointed was not in a situation that qualified him to execute the functions of this department; but he was permitted to exercise the office by a deputy, who was named by himself, and approved by the magistrates and council. In this manner it had been handed down from father to son, as a family inheritance, until the period of the present narrative. One of the relatives of this family was also in possession of the town's public mills, of which he had obtained a grant,† in fee simple, for an annual feu duty, in the year 1575, subsequently to the alienation of the other property belonging to the community, as has been formerly related. Some of the same party in the council were also lessees of the bell and petty customs; of the assize boll; of the public mets and measures; for which certain small rents were paid yearly: and the common hand bell was held in fee farm.‡

In the year 1588, the office of town clerk having become vacant by the death of the incumbent, the office reverted to the town council and community. The provost then in office put in his claim to
it

* Council Register, vol. viii. p. 194. 282.

† The vassal paid 600 merks for the grant, (equal to L.71 13s. 4d. sterling money), which he had advanced for defence of the liberty of the borough.—[Council Register, vol. xxviii. p. 445. 594.]

‡ As this was the æra of feuing, we find that the hand bell had been given off in *fee farm*, for a small yearly quit rent. It was redeemed in 1594 from Patrick Leslie, the vassal, by payment of 500 merks from the public funds.—[Council Register, vol. xxxv. p. 413. vol. xxxvi. p. 44.]

it as a matter of course, and a majority of the council, according to the *ancient and laudable custom*, voted him to the office of common clerk,* during life, in the same manner as his predecessors had enjoyed it. At the same time, permission was given to him to nominate one or more deputies under him, to discharge the functions of the office. In order to render this act of greater validity, it became necessary, however, to have the sanction of the whole community, in the attainment of which greater difficulty occurred. In a head court, which was convened for the special purpose, a motion being made for sanctioning the appointment of the council, was keenly opposed by a certain number of the citizens, on the ground of its not being compatible to hold both the offices of provost and clerk conjointly. It was, on the other hand, contended, that it was no more incompatible than for the clerk register to hold the office of chief justice in the justiciary court, as he was both judge and clerk of court, although he appointed clerks to officiate under him; besides, the heritable sheriffs possessed the power of nominating their own clerks. After a warm contest between those in power and the party in opposition, the provost succeeded in accomplishing his object, the majority of the citizens who were assembled having given their votes in favour of the motion. Matters being thus accommodated to his mind, the whole business was again brought under the review of the magistrates and council, who, with a view to extinguish the controversies on this occasion, thought it advisable to grant to the provost *licence, tolerance, and power*, only to present a qualified person to be principal clerk, and another to be deputy. The provost thereupon presented Mr. John Kennedy and Mr. Thomas Mollison, whose appointments of principal and deputy clerks respectively were accordingly sanctioned by the council.† This, however, was only the prelude to the attainment of more important objects in view, in the political affairs of the borough.

Mr. John Cheyne of Fortrie, advocate in Aberdeen; Alexander Ewen, burgess of guild; and certain others of their party, having obtained

* Council Register, vol. xxxii. p. 444. 452. et seq.

† Ibid. vol. xxxii. p. 444. 452. et seq.

obtained places in the council, complained loudly of the waste of the patrimony of the borough, and of the mismanagement of the public funds, which they alleged had, for several years, been dissipated, and given away to the private advantage of certain individuals in the council. They commenced the spirit of reform, and steadily persevered, with indefatigable zeal, to accomplish a radical change in the mode of electing the magistrates and town council, which, at this period, was not strictly conformable to the established law. It would appear that, at this time, and for many years preceding, the members who composed the town council had been elected for life, or during good behaviour; and that the election of magistrates and office-bearers only took place annually. However much this system may have been in opposition to the statute of 1469, it certainly had the concurrence of King James, who not only expressed his entire approbation of the system which had been long observed, and his particular reasons for so doing, but allowed the magistrates and town council to continue the practice as heretofore, notwithstanding the act of parliament. This he confirmed, by a writ under the privy seal, upon 20th July, 1591,* which was transmitted to the magis-

X

trates

* “ James, be the Grace of God, King of Scottis, To our advocat, and all uſeris o² liegis and subdittis quhome it efferis, Quhais knowlege ȳir o² ĩres sal cum greting, Wit ze us, considering the guid, trew, and thankfull service done to us and o² predecessors be ye Provost, Baillies, and Counsall of o² bur² of Aberdene; allsweill in ye wyiss and prudent government of ye sam^e, according to ye ancient custome, libertie, and privileges yairof, inviolable observit past memorie of man, As in yair reddie and dewtifull obedience, gevin pruiſ of from tyme to tyme, towards us, be expounding of yair lands and lyifis in o² service, And repressing of dyvers rebellionis and uproris, movit at sundrie tymes in ye north pairtis of yis o² realme: And we, understanding yat ye cheif grund and caus of the laing flurishing of o² said bur² in peace, tranquillitie, and guid service towards us, consistit in a guid and substantious Counsall, of ye gravest, loyif, and discreit inhabitantis of o² said bur², best disposit and effectit to our obeidnce, ȳlkis has contenuit in ye sam^e office sen yair first electionn, unalterit or changeit, be ye space of fourtie or fyftie zeiris, according to ye lovabill consuetude of o² said bur², inviolable observit be the space of a hundreth zeiris befor; ȳlk consuetude of ye continuing of yair Counsall efter yair first lauchfull election unto ye tyme of yair deceis, except yai had bene tryit or fund giltie of sum cryme meriting deprivationn is ratefeit and approven be dyveris actis and constitutionis of o² said bur²; and hes bene maist wyslie and prudentlie establishit be yair predecessors, for avoiding of greit dangeris and incōvenientes, ȳlkis otherwyiss my² have fallen out within o² said burgh, be the zeirliche changeing and alterations of ye said Counsall, ȳlk is cheifly suddit be dyveris unquiet and ambitious personis; To the effect that ye government of o² said bur² suld be devolvit in ye handis of outlandis men, of grit clannis and surnames, ȳlkis compass and

trates in the course of the present controversy. When we reflect upon the unsettled state of the nation during the former part of his reign, the changeable opinions of men subsequently to the Reformation, and various other circumstances combined, perhaps this extension of royal prerogative may not appear to be a matter of much surprise.

The momentous question between the burgesses and the administrators of the town was first agitated before the Convention of Boroughs, which assembled at Aberdeen on the 8th June, 1590. The grievances of the citizens, and their complaints against the magistrates

dwellis round about o² said bur², And hes, be all meanis, baith directlie and indirectlie, aspyrit to ye roule and government of ye samyn, express agains o² actis of parliament, inhibiting and discharging ye electionn of outlandis men in Provest, Bailleis, or Auldremen w²in burgh. In ye q̄lk cais o² said burgh suld rather becum a monople, thrawit and astrietit to yat factionn and clan q̄lk sald happen to be preferrit to ye government, nor a fre burgh, to the utter wrak and detriment yairof. In consideration quhairof, and yat o² aet of parliament made anent ye changing of ye zeirлие Counsall hes nevir zit tane effect w²in o² said burgh, bot ye personnis anes lauchfullie chosin uponn Counsall hes contentuit yairon unto ye tyme of yair deceiss, alwyess subjeet to ye tryall of ye ny²bouris of o² said burgh. And, in cais of ony falt or cryme, the same hes bene ordorlie tryit uponn ye gyld court day efter ye electionn of ye magistrates yairof; and, being fund giltie, yai have bene removit and depyvit, and n̄yeris placeit in yair rowmis, q̄ruponn hes followit a gret tranquillitie and concord w²in o² said burgh: And in respect of mony uper inconvenientes q̄lk ye zeirлие changeing of ye said Counsall may earie w² it, namelie, ye abrogationn of ye auld lawis and statuteis of o² said burgh, The disturbance of ye comōn peace yairof, The civil disorder and discection yat nicht follow yairuponn, w² ye infinite confusionn and perrell q̄lk comōnnlie accompanies all new changeis and mutationis in comōnn welthis; We have allowit, and be yir o² tres allowis, of yat p̄nt electit Counsall of o² said bur², and willis and declaris yat pe same Counsall sall remane and stand, efter ye ancienst consuetude and custom yairof, in all tyme cumying. And in cais of yair deceiss, or tryit unworthnis, That ye remanēt of ye Counsall electit uperis in yair places; it being alwyiss understand yat ye same Counsall be zeirлие heirefter electit be voit of Counsall, and sic uper ceremonis as ar aecustomat in electionn of magistrates within burgh. Notwithstanding of o² act of parliament maid anent ye zeirлие change and electionn of magistrates with burgh, anent ye q̄lk we have dispensit, and be yir o² tres dispensis in yat part concerning ye changeing of ye Counsall allanerlie, Renūeeand and dischargeand all actionn and persute, competent to us or o² successo² twiching ye contraventionn of o² said aet of parliament yairanent, discharging you o² said advocat of all persute, movit, or to be movit agains ye said Counsall for contraventionn of ye same aet, And not fulfilling of ye same in yat point, And of yo² office in yat part, be yir o² tres, Gevin under o² privie seill, at Falkland, the twentie day of July, The yeir of God Jm. Vc fourescoir elevin yeiris, And of o² rigne the twenty fo² yeir.

“Per signaturā manibus S. D. N. Regis ac Cancellar subscript.”

“*Litera Prepositi, Ballivorum, et* }
“*Consilium burgi de Aberdene.*” }

trates and common council being enumerated at great length, and placed in the strongest point of view, were submitted to that assembly on the part of Mr. Cheyne and his friends in very dispassionate terms. On the other hand, they were answered by their adversaries with some degree of asperity and indignation; while a great deal of discussion appears to have taken place before the convention, by the contending parties, for several successive days. Meanwhile the minds of the people were, as usual, much inflamed, and animosities among the citizens encreased daily more and more. The Convention of Boroughs being only a court of delegates, could afford no radical redress of the grievances of which the burgesses complained; and little more appears to have been done on this occasion, than giving a patient hearing to both parties.* Mat-
x 2
ters,

* This being the first attempt to change the constitution of a royal borough in Scotland, and to infringe the feudal government on which it is founded, we shall present a detail of the proceedings which took place between the burgesses of guild and others of the community, and the magistrates, in the Convention of Royal Boroughs, which was held at Aberdeen, on this important question, from the 8th to the 15th June.

On the 8th June, 1590, the Convention of Boroughs met at Aberdeen, when Mr. John Cheyne and Mr. Andrew King, for themselves, and in name of the community of the borough, protested against the election and admission of Mr. Thomas Menzies, provost, and Alex. Rutherford, commissioners for the town, on the ground of the commission being defective, as not having, according to custom, the consent of the community, which was essentially necessary. It was stated in answer, "That, in respect of the said borough's old laws and constitutions, made anent the admission of commissioners at every their general and several conventions of the boroughs, the said Mr. Thomas and Alexander, commissioners, are valid and effectual, and therefore ought to be admitted, conform to their act, above expressed, Because the said commission is given under the seal of cause of the borough, and under the subscription of the common clerk thereof; and they chosen by the Provost, Baillies, and Council of the said borough, as all commissioners chosen to conventions, general and several of boroughs, according to the accustomed manner of other boroughs of this realm, are chosen." Thereafter the said Andrew King received up his procuration produced, dissenting to the commission of the said commissioners, and required "the reasons, presently produced, to be registrate and insert in this their general book of convention, in form as effeirs, to be given and extracted, under their general clerk's subscription, of the which reasons the tenor follows:—

"We, Andrew Sherar, David Endeacht, Alex. Howison, Andrew King, William Gray, George Forbes, Mr. John Cheyne, George Laing, John Laing, George Gordon, Alexander Ewen, ——— Robertson, George Elphinston, Lawrence Mercer, John Saunders, Mathew Guild, Alexander Steven, Alexander Peterson, Andrew Milne, Andrew Henrison, Andrew Leslie, William Hay, all persons of council, burgesses of Aberdeen, deacon and craftsmen of the same, respective, for ourselves, and in name and behalf of the remanent afflicted members of the *pure* common weil of ther

ters, however, still continued in the greatest disorder, and, for some time, much anarchy prevailed in the town. The supreme civil court
was

burgh, Desire your wisdom, for the tender mercys of God, your own honour, and as ye will answer to his Majesty, and evert the great peril that may fall in your own common weil, by suffering the liberties of burgh to decay, That ye will take diligent head to our most humble and reasonable supplication, to the proposition whereof we are urged by plain necessity, and nocht upon any light and inconsidered motions, having oft-times called for reparation, and altogether refused. Item, to the effect that we be not prejudged in the beginning of our most humble convention, we desired that an lawful commissioner, chosen by the most part of the worthier in the town, be received ; and that Mr. Thomas Menzies of Dorne, and Alexander Rutherford, pretending themselves, or, at the best, are only chosen by a few number of their own friends, privately, without summons of bill or convention of commonaltie, for advisement of their own turns, thereanent question is to be debated before yo^r wisdoms, betwixt the community and them, especially for inhalding themselves, their own kind friends, and allenarly, in the chief offices of the town, as it were their awin particular heritages, continued in their persons, these diverse years begged by the acts of his Majesty's parliament, whereby this poor borough is already impoverished, and likly to incur his Majesty's wrath and inspecial punishment ; and for maintenance and appropriating of the common goods and common lands and casualties of this burgh, which is, and has been, these many years, in their and their friends' hands, unrouped, according to the custom of other burghs, to put on more profit or duty paid therefore.

“ Item, in speciall, Thomas Menzies of Dorne can noways be commissioner, because he, as tutor to Gilbert Menzies, his brother, has withholden from the common weil of the said burgh the haill small customs thereof ; the size bolls ; the mets of coals, lyme, and salt ; the land tacks of the said burgh, and diverse commodities of the same, without any payment of any duty, obscures the haill evidents of the town, violently maintains himself as clerk of the town, without election.

“ Item, the said Mr. Thomas, being an landward barron, na merchant nor traffecker, only brought from landward, for the maintainance of his friends, and continuing of the office of provostry, in their name, by the assistance of diverse landward barrons, has intruded himself in the office of provost, and violently continued himself therein by the space of two years together, as his predecessors has done continually by the space of fifty years, and more ; thereby drawing the estates of his Majesty's free burgh to the similitude of an burgh of barony, not only against his Majesty's laws, bnt also against the sworn oath of the whole town, publicly convened at the Michaelmas election of provost and magistrates, in 1587 years, as the act and ordinance of their own book will testify, to the utter wreck of this haill town ; which act being inspecial the electors of magistrates for more years than one together, shall tine their freedoms, and incur the pain of *punire*, and so cannot be commissioners ; And for the said Mr. Thomas, is second, third, foud dependant with the most part of these, against whom the poor community of this town is to mean themselves before your worships, anent the wrongs sustained by the said commons, for reparation of the desert and wasted common good of the burgh.

“ Item, the said Alex. Rutherford is in the like condition of the said Mr. Thomas own sister's son, and has married his daughter, against whom also the community has actions of *purprision*, for usurping of an great part and quantity of the common lands of the said burgh ; and, therefore, he

was resorted to by the party in opposition, in order to accomplish a reduction of all the elections of the magistrates and town council which

can noway be commanded of the said burgh, for us and community foresaid; and, therefore, desires your wisdoms to give," &c.

The commissions were sustained, in regard the commissioners were lawfully chosen by the town council, and the convention adjourned till to-morrow.

On the 9th of June, Mr. Cheyne and Mr. King gave in their protestations against the proceedings; and on the 10th, Mr. Cheyne gave in the following articles:—

"In the first place, it is to be remembered, that by the acts of his Majesty's parliament, and predecessors, of most noble and high renown, no man lawfully may bear office but for an year; and that partiality and mischief, which is undoing of burrows, in the election thereof, ought to have no place. As also, that no man ought to trouble, or give fear and dread to his neighbour, in election of the magistrates; and that no man leisomely may be chosen provost, baillies, or alderman to burgh, but that are honest and substantial burgesses, merchants, and indwellers in the said burgh. That the common good of burgh ought to be yearly roup'd, at the most set for the space of three years; and that, finally, the evidents, common books, writes, artillery, and jewels of the town, ought to be put in sure and public custody; and it is true that all these heads are transgressed within the miserable bowels of this common wealth, and by so far as his Majesty's free burgh has been thrall'd to serve an race of people, as it were an burgh of barony, never having any provost or council changed by the space of fifty years together, except it were by death; and, in that case, one of the same race, as it were an state of succeeding years. No person of burgh but they knowing any thing concerning the custody of the evidents or jewels of the town; none but they having *interes* to the disposition of the rents thereof; no common good roup'd for the space of thirty years by-gone: Wherefore we desire, seeing there is no council chosen this year as yet, nor has been by lang space before, That we may have place, and choose furth an unsuspected council, of the most worthy, substantial merchants of the hail body of our town, as use is in other well reformed towns, and in competent numbers.

"Item, the leets for election of the provost not to be restrained to the name of Menzies, their friends and allies, but to be extended to an number of the most worthy of burgh, that knows the state thereof, and by the advice and vote of the hail town, ane thereof to be chosen; and he that is chosen only to bear office for one year.

"Item, the Dean of Guild to be yearly chosen by the town, and have full jurisdiction, as he has in other towns.

"Item, the town's seal to be put in the custody of two unsuspected persons' hands yearly, at the election. The town's books, evidents, public sureties, sasines, and jewels pertaining to the town, to be put in the keeping house where they were before, in a chest, with four locks, and four unsuspected persons to be keepers thereof; and, in the meantime, the evidents to be sighted by such competent numbers of unsuspected persons as your wisdoms shall appoint. Item, your wisdoms act, made at St. Andrew's, anent the roup'ing of the common good, to be put to execution betwixt this and day of next." This was ordered to be answered against to-morrow.

The following answer was then given in:—

"11th

which had taken place for thirty years preceding; and also to obtain redress of various other grievances, of which the burgesses complained. During the dependance of these law-suits, Mr. Cheyne had been expelled from the council, in rather an arbitrary manner, for opposing the *powers, authority, and lawfulness* of the town council, by maintaining that no lawful election had taken place for several years; and by insisting that the craftsmen were eligible to offices in the council, in place of being named only auditors of the public accounts.

“ 11th June, 1590.—The provost, baillies, and council of the burgh of Aberdeen, ancient citizens and burgesses thereof, with the greatest part of the community of the same, answering to certain articles given in, presented before you, my Lords Commissioners of Burghs, assembled at Aberdeen the 10th of June, 1590 years, craving reformation of the civil government of the said burgh, says, It is common to all persons, when provoked to bauld rashness, namely, to * * * * * the alterations, innovating and altering of the civil government, or of any burgh or commonwealth which so long has flourished in civil polished quietness and tranquillity, and so long has been governed, through the observing and keeping of lovable constitution, and good laws, set down of old. To all such we say, to cover their desires and enterprises, in under some honest pretence, desiring, as it were, an better form of government to be introduced therein; nor, at any time, since the erection of their burgh has been concredited and received, even so it is with the adherents to the said articles; seeing that true it is, continually since the said burgh of Aberdeen was erected by his Majesty's most noble progenitors, of good memory, in an free regal burgh, dotting the same with diverse liberties, immunities, and privileges, and chiefly with the privilege of free election of provost, baillies, and council, dean of guild, treasurer, clerk, and other ordinar officers within the same, which privileges altogether, by the said articles, are craved to be abrogated.

“ The settled form, long continued estate of government, foresaid, in no time heretofore, since the erection of the said burgh, has been altered or changed; but the same, to this day and time, has been followed out, and inviolably observed, according to the said privileges, allowed and approved by his Highness and his Majesty's predecessors, from time to time, notwithstanding of his Grace's acts of parliament. The form of the election of the provost, baillies, and council, treasurer, and dean of guild, within the burgh, has been invariably the same for the space of fifty years; and what is pretended to is nothing but an alteration of the fundamental government of the said burgh; for, by a decreet arbitral between the merchants and trades there, no tradesmen can bear office, nor be upon the council; and all the royal burrows are not governed after one manner of government,” &c.

The convention continued their sederunts from day to day, until the 15th of June; during which time there were a variety of protestations, *hinc inde*. A declaration, in name of the community, was then put in, expressing a “ willingness absolutely to refer all the differences to the boroughs; but the magistrates were inclined only to refer them conditionally. The convention at length fand ŷ² they would not medle w² it, but remitted to the Judge competent; and, in the meantime, declared ŷ² the p²tie breaker of the peace, and troubler of the other, sould incurr a great penalty.”

Journals of the Convention of Boroughs at Aberdeen, from 1552 to 1596—Extracts of Journals, vol. i. p. 16.

accounts.* This could not fail to irritate his party to a great degree. It gave rise to another law-suit before the supreme court, in name of Mr. Cheyne, Mr. Ewen, and others, against the magistrates and council, on various grounds, particularly to enforce production of the registers of their proceedings, the rolls of taxation, and the books of their accounts. At Michaelmas, 1591, the magistrates and council, notwithstanding the writ which they had obtained from the king, authorising them to continue the former practice in the election, judged it expedient, with a view to conciliate the minds of the citizens, and to regain their confidence, to depart from this system, and to choose twelve new counsellors, who, with four only of the old members, were to form the town council for the ensuing year.† This measure, however well intended it may have been, does not appear to have had the desired effect, or to have given much satisfaction; for the burgesses still continued their discontents, and the prosecution of their law-suits. On the 29th December, the magistrates made another pacific attempt, in the hope of conciliating their fellow-citizens in these critical times. They passed an act of council, by which they appear to have had in contemplation to make an application to the supreme court, in name of the old and new councils, for authority to establish a proper plan for conducting the election of the magistrates and council, not only for this year, but in time coming, which they conceived would tend to terminate the present controversy; but whether such an application was made does not appear, nor does any thing further occur in the record on that subject. On the 21st of the subsequent month of January, the lords of session, however, pronounced a judgment of acquittal, in the law-suits which had been brought before them, as far as they regarded the elections preceding the year 1591;‡ and, on the 20th of May thereafter, they pronounced another judgment, by which they also acquitted the magistrates and town council as to the election at Michaelmas, 1591, “because the provost, baillies, and magistrates of the said borough were lawfully elected and chosen, conform to the acts of parliament made anent election

* Council Register, vol. xxxiii. p. 898, et seq.

† Ibid. vol. xxxiv. p. 1.

‡ Council Register, vol. xxxiv. p. 295.

election of magistrates within borough, and under the authority of the king's special letters." The lords, at the same time, "decerned and declared, that, in all time thereafter, the officers, magistrates, provost, baillies, and council, shall be yearly elected, and chosen, according to the acts of parliament, in all points." The defendants were also found entitled to receive L.20 of expences from the prosecutors, and L.5, which had been, according to order, consigned by them in the hands of the collector of court.* Meanwhile it would appear, that inspection had been given to the burgesses, in presence of David Cunningham, bishop of Aberdeen, who had been appointed commissioner for this purpose, of all the registers, both of the borough court and council, and of the ancient charters and writs belonging to the town, in compliance with the injunctions of the lords of session.†

After these judgments had been given in the supreme court, the spirit of opposition was again roused, and could not be easily restrained. The discontented part of the citizens adopted an expedient, which characterised the times, to obtain redress of their grievances at their own hand, by having recourse to hostile measures. On the 27th September, 1592, being the day appointed for the annual election, they equipped themselves in arms, and assembled in the Gray Friars Church, and in other parts of the town, having formed a determination to vindicate, by these means, what they conceived to be their rights and privileges.‡ The people, whose minds were, perhaps, artfully inflamed, now burst forth into an excess of fury; and the vain attempt which was made by the magistrates to quell the disturbance, was unhappily followed by bloodshed.§ In this critical juncture, they deemed it expedient to open a negotiation for bringing matters to an accommodation with their fellow-citizens, by means of David Anderson, Alexander Forbes, and Thomas Leslie, three of the baillies; and two other members of the council,

* Council Register, vol. xxxiv. p. 510, et seq.

† Ibid. vol. xxxiv. p. 172, et seq.

‡ Council Register, vol. xxxiv. p. 517, et seq.

§ One person was killed, and fifteen were wounded, of whom three were magistrates.

council, whom they delegated for that special purpose. This pacific measure had the desired effect. Both parties would seem to have been wearied of the long struggle; a reconciliation speedily took place, and the magistrates and whole community afterwards assembled at the Woolmanhill, on terms of anity and good will. Hence they proceeded to the church, where they heard sermon, and extinguished all their former rancour and animosities. The day appears to have been concluded with a cheerful glass at the cross; and the parties mutually forgave each other the bloodshed which had unfortunately been occasioned on both sides. Thus tranquillity was happily re-established among all ranks of the citizens.

When the effervescence of party spirit had gradually settled, the election of the magistrates and council, which had taken place at this time, was abandoned,* and the whole matter in controversy between the magistrates and the burgesses became the subject of an arbitration of their sovereign, as oversman, and twelve persons as umpires, namely, four lords of session, four clergymen, and four burgesses of guild of the city of Edinburgh. King James and these umpires, after a solemn hearing of the parties, pronounced a decree arbitral, upon the 7th of the following month of December, by which they found, “that *Thomas Menzies*,† heir apparent of Durne, shall be provost of the said borough of Aberdeen for this year; *William Menzies*,† *Master Patrick Cheyne*, *George Forbes*,‡ and *William Gray*,‡ baillies; *Master Richard Irving*, dean of guild; and *David Cargill*, treasurer, of the said borough; and that *David Ferguson*, *Alexander Rutherford*,† *John Collyson*,† *Alexander Cullen*,† *William Jack*, *Alexander Ewen*,‡ *James Setton*,† *Andrew Scherar*,‡ *Thomas Duvye*, *Robert Menzies*; *James Robertson*, goldsmith, and *Alexander Sterin*,‡ baxter, two of the *craftsmen*, shall be counsellors; who were all *elected, nominated, and chosen*, for the said year, by this decree arbitral. These were ordained to accept their offices respectively, to give their oaths, *de fidei administratione officii*, judicially, before the commissary of

Y

Aberdeen;

* Council Register, vol. xxxiv. p. 557.

† Those were of the defendants, in the several law-suits against the magistrates before the court of session; and those marked ‡ were of the prosecutors.

Aberdeen ; and to remain in office until Wednesday immediately preceding Michaelmas ensuing. His Majesty and those umpires concluded with enjoining the acts of parliament concerning the elections of magistrates, council, and office-men, within boroughs, to be *precisely observed* in all time coming." By these means this serious, but important affair to the community, which had been the source of so much ferment, disorder, and animosity, among the citizens, for several years, was at length terminated.*

On the election of the new council and magistrates, at Michaelmas, 1593, under the authority of his Majesty's decree arbitral, Mr. John Cheyne, who had commenced the contest in 1588, was unanimously elected provost ; and Mr. Ewen continued a counsellor : at the same time, several of Mr. Cheyne's professional friends obtained places in the new council. Mr. Cheyne and Mr. Ewen, being men of great respectability in the town, were afterwards delegated to represent the community before the king, then at *Ardes Cowie*, in the course of one of his northern excursions ; and were enjoined to solicit his Majesty to dispense with the attendance of the magistrates upon him at that place, and for his permission to receive him at the Bridge of Dee, on his approach to the town.† Mr. Cheyne's professional avocations, however, appear to have been of more consideration to him than the honourable appointment of chief magistrate ; for he often had occasion, while in office, to apply to the council to dispense with his attendance, on account of his other engagements. He enjoyed the office only one year ; and represented the borough in parliament. The thanks of the community were publicly voted to him in a head court, which was assembled for the purpose ; and a few days after leaving the chair, as chief magistrate, the council granted to him an ample testimonial, under their privy seal, of his having *dutifully, uprightly, and diligently* discharged the office.‡

The elevation of Mr. Cheyne to the dignity of provost occasioned no little jealousy in the minds of the commercial part of the community ;

* Council Register, vol. xxxiv, p. 550, et seq.

† Ibid. vol. xxxvi. p. 658.

‡ Council Register, vol. xxxv. p. 1—166.

nity; but in none more than the adherents of the former leaders in the administration, who still retained a considerable influence in the politics of the borough. The services of men of law in the council were, therefore, in due time, dispensed with; and those only who were concerned in commerce were allowed to enjoy the several offices in the magistracy and council, and to direct the administration of the civil and political affairs of the town. Indeed, the subsequent acts of the convention of boroughs, and particularly the acts of parliament, 20. King James VI.* rendered professional men and others, not *merchants* and *actual traffickers*, incapable of holding any office in the magistracy for the future.

But although the decree arbitral of King James compromised matters as to the election for the year 1592, and fixed the number of burgesses of guild and *craftsmen*, of which the council was to consist; yet it by no means defined the extent of the powers of the corporations of artificers in it, or settled the number of votes to which they were entitled: nor did it fix the number of members of which the old and new councils were to be composed at the annual election of magistrates, and office-bearers; and, therefore, to obviate all questions on these topics, it was thought expedient to refer these points to the *arbitration* of the Convention of Royal Boroughs, to which all the citizens cordially acceded.

On the 5th July, 1596, the convention met at Aberdeen, and, after weighing the merits of the question between the magistrates and the burgesses of guild, pronounced an award, finding, “that two craftsmen of the old council, and two of the new, with the six deacons only, being ten persons, were to have votes in the election of provost, baillies, and other office-bearers; and in case any of them happened to be absent on that day, it should be lawful for the remaining members to elect another in his place. That the provost, baillies, and the other members of the old and new councils, who were burgesses of guild, should not exceed the number of thirty persons; and that, in case of the absence of any of these members,

x 2

other

* Acts of Parliament, vol. iv. p. 435.

other burgesses of guild were to be chosen in their place, to vote at the election, according to the number which might happen to be absent. The old and new councils were, therefore, ordained to consist of forty persons ; and, in the event of an equality of votes, it was expressly declared, that the provost or chief magistrate present should be entitled, not only to a deliberative, but also to a casting vote.* This is denominated the *set*† of the borough of Aberdeen. The decree arbitral of the Convention of Boroughs, which composed all differences between the parties, appears to have been received by the citizens with universal satisfaction ; and, notwithstanding the changeable opinions of men, and the many vicissitudes which have since happened in the nation, has been regarded with the strictest observance, from that time to the present day.‡

In

* Journals of the Convention of Boroughs at Aberdeen—Council Register, vol. xxxvi. p. 564, et seq.

† The form which directs the mode of choosing the magistrates and town council.

‡ The Convention of Boroughs was too well aware of the extent of its powers in such cases, even at this period, to interfere in such matters in any other way than under the authority of a voluntary reference, by the administrators of the town, and an accession to it by all the citizens who were interested in its issue. In ancient times, recourse was frequently had to the convention, to alter or new-model the political constitution of boroughs ; but whatever was done proceeded upon voluntary submissions, or references by the parties, or a surrender of all their rights into the hands of the convention, for a new *set* to be returned to them. There were many instances of that assembly having declined its own jurisdiction, when the consent of all parties to the exercise of their authority was wanting ; and, particularly, at the commencement of the present struggle, 15th June, 1590.§ In a case of a borough, whose *set* was established by a decree arbitral, confirmed by immemorial practice, and ratified by an act of the king in privy council, one part of the citizens, in opposition to the other, voted a resolution to apply for the authority of the convention to alter the *set* of the borough. This resolution was interrupted by their political opponents, who presented a bill of suspension to the supreme court, alleging, among other matters, that the convention had no power to alter the *set* of the town ; and the court, after mature deliberation, found unanimously that no such powers were possessed by the convention.|| This judgment of the court was founded upon the most obvious principles of law and expediency. The eminent lawyer, who wrote the History of Edinburgh, observes, with much propriety, that “ when the constitution of a body corporate has been once fixed, the rights arising¶ therefrom are as inviolable as those of private property ; and, therefore,

§ Notes—page 158.

|| The Trades of Inverness against the Burgesses of Guild, 10th February, 1724 ; the Hammermen, &c. of Glasgow against the Weavers, 17th February, 1775 ; the Magistrates of Edinburgh against the Craftsmen, Aug. 7th, 1778.

¶ Records of the Convention for 1590, 1724, 1748, 1769.

In the course of this political contest, no change or alteration took place in the ancient constitution of the borough; neither did the judgments of the Court of Session, the decree arbitral of King James, nor the award of the Convention of Boroughs, make the least infringement on it; and the two last proceeded entirely upon voluntary references by the administrators at the time, and by the citizens who were immediately interested. The only important advantages which were gained in this struggle for power, were, that the artificers were to be allowed to have two of their number as constituent members of the council, in place of being only auditors of the public accounts, as formerly;* that they should be entitled to ten votes at the annual election of magistrates and office-bearers; and that the election of the town council should be conducted agreeably to the established law.

When these momentous affairs in the political government of the borough had been accomplished, the vassal in possession of the town's public mills, after some struggle with the magistrates, was induced to relinquish the grant which he had received, and to re-invest the community in the property; but not without receiving a very high

cannot be affected but by authority of parliament. The peace and security of the constitution at large depends upon the stability and harmony of the parts of which it is composed. If these parts are to be regulated by the will of that branch of the community to which they respectively belong, and not by the dictates of their charters, we have no such thing as law or a constitution; we are no longer governed by law, but by the changable caprice of men. Nothing but the immutability of the constitution can establish the harmony and security of a state. To this, any trifling advantages to be reaped from a change ought to be sacrificed."—[*Arnot's History of Edinburgh*, p. 466.]

It may also be observed, that, as a sacred trust is reposed in the administrators of a royal borough, neither they nor the citizens are by law or usage authorised to compromise any part of its constitution by mutual concessions, so as to make the least infringement of it. Indeed any advantage to be gained by a partial alteration of the system would, in many instances, be greatly overbalanced by the bad consequences which might naturally result from the hasty and inconsiderate exercise of such powers. Our ancestors were aware of this, and appear to have been extremely tenacious of their ancient rights and privileges. We ought to be equally careful to preserve them, and to remember the old adage of our prætorium, "*Servate terminos quos patres vestri posuere.*" When the wisdom of parliament thinks proper to interfere in these matters, it will adopt the best means of accomplishing that alteration or amendment which will tend to improve the system, and not endanger either the safety of the constitution, or the security of the people.

* Council Register, vol. xxxiii. p. 367.

high recompense in money. The sum which was exacted for the redemption of the original grant was no less than 5000 merks. This was raised partly by the price of the lands of Ardlair,* which had been sold by the master of church and bridge works,† some years previously, for the sum of 4000 merks; and the balance was made up from the funds of the treasury.‡

During this æra, the pestilence, which had so frequently afflicted the citizens at former periods, and had often made its appearance in other parts of the kingdom, does not seem to have been prevalent in the town, although, in the year 1608, it broke out in Torrie, on the south side of the river Dee, where it raged for some time; and, on repeated occasions, some symptoms of it had appeared among the inhabitants. The rigorous precautions which were adopted by the magistrates, on intelligence being brought to the town of its raging in other places, probably had been the means of preventing it from making much progress, or spreading in the town.§ But, towards the close of the sixteenth century, the leprosy, a disease frequent and common among the Jews, and the loathsomeness and severity of which are pathetically described in the scriptures, made its appearance among some of the inhabitants; and, although it was not attended with such fatal consequences to them, yet was equally dreaded as the pestilence. An hospital was founded on the croft, which was distinguished by the name of the leper's croft, near the Gallowhills, for the reception of persons who were afflicted with that disease. This institution was supported from the public funds, and, soon after being established, obtained from King James VI. a grant,||
for

* These lands had been granted by Bishop Gavin Dunbar, in the year 1529, by a deed of mortmain, to the council and community, for supporting the Bridge of Dee.—[*Council Register*, vol. xii. p. 731.]

† The office-bearer in the town council who has the charge of the funds belonging to these works.

‡ *Council Register*, vol. xxxiv. p. 736. vol. xxxvi. 708.

§ *Miscellaneous Occurrences*, p. 140.

|| “ James, be the grace of God, King of Scottis, To all and sundrie our lieges, duelland within our feldome of Abirdene, and to our louittis Messengeris our ffeffis in that pairt, conjunctlie and seweralie specialie constitute greting, for samekle as we being informit of the smal-

for supplying it with fuel, of one *peat* from each load brought to the markets of New and Old Aberdeen.* This grant, small as it may now appear to be, was serviceable, and perhaps very important at the time when fuel was a scarce and an expensive article among the necessities of life. Such was the virulence and terror of this infectious disease,† that it not unfrequently occasioned the
husband

nes of the rent appointit for the leprous personis in the hospitall and houf² betwixt new and auld Aberdene, unable to sustene thame in meet and fyre, quhairthrow they leif² verie miserablie, specialie in the Wynter seasonn, and ar constrainit, that tyme of the yeir, for halding in of their lyves, to retein thameselfis furth of thair said appointit residence to the said townis nixt adjacent, amāgis elene personis, throw the vehementis of the cauld, q²throw they perrell the estate and helth of mony elene folkis, be thair cūpany and infectionn. And, thairfoir, we being wiell myndit to supplie thair indigence and necessitie, but ather the loiss of o²self, or you, our saidis lieges, have givin, grantit, and disponit; and be thir o² w²ting gevis, grantis, and disponis, To Robert Abell, and remanent of the said pure leprous personis, and thair successo², ane peit of custome of ilk leid of peittis, pūland the mercat to be sauld, into the saidis townis, in all tyme cūing. Coīmandeing and chargeing you, all and sundrie o² lieges and subdittis foirsaidis, That ye, and ilk ane of you, redde-lie anſy, obey, and mak pament & deliverance of the said custome of ane peit of ilk leid of peittis pūland the mercat, to be sauld in ather of the saidis townis of Abirdene, to the saids Robert Abell, and remanēt leprous personis foirsaid, and thair successo² and maister of the said hospital, in thair names, and thir under ressauear in their names, As ye and ilk ane of you will anſy² to us at yo² heichast charge and prell; and under the panis of cōfiscation of all sick personis peittis as sall refuse to pay the said custome in all tyme cūing to the said pure people, thair successouris, and maister of the said hospital, and this undir ressauears in thair names. Our will is heirfoir, &c. Given under our signet, and subscrivit with our hand, at Falkland, the xvi day of August, and of our reigne the twentie-fyve yeir, 1591."

" JAMES R."

" GRAME."

" ROBERT MELVILLE."

" *Dorso*.—Lre Registrat Mr. Robert Young."

* Peats were brought to the towns, in former times, on horseback, by cadgers, and sold in retail.

† " It is a curious, yet neglected object of disquisition, *how certain diseases spring up and die away in different ages*. The frequency of the leprosy among the Jews is known to every one, and its loathsomeness and severity are pathetically described in the book of Job; but our ancestors also were much afflicted with it. It was, by no means, a disease peculiar to the poor, but visited equally the cottage and the palace. King Robert Bruce, who was said himself to be afflicted with the leprosy, founded, near the town of Ayr, an hospital for persons labouring under that distemper. In the reign of James I. it was so general, as to be the subject of parliamentary regulation.

" In A.D. 1591, an hospital was founded at Greenside by John Robertson, merchant in Edinburgh, for persons afflicted with the leprosy, who were interdicted, by the magistrates of Edinburgh, from going without the hospital, or to have its door open after sun set, under pain of death. That this might not be deemed an empty threatening, a gallows was erected at the gabel of the hospital, for the immediate execution of the offenders."—[*Arnot's History of Edinburgh*, p. 257.]

husband to forsake his wife, and the wife and children to abandon the husband and the father; while the unhappy patient was interdicted from holding intercourse with the brewer, the baker, or the butcher. Happily for society, in process of time it abated its virulence, and at length entirely wore out, about the beginning of the eighteenth century. The leper house and croft were then sold, and the price which was received for them was appropriated to a fund for the establishment of an hospital for the reception of persons deprived of their reason;* which, however, never was erected.

But while this infectious disease was common in the town, a new one, more contagious, broke out among the younger ranks of the community, about the year 1608.† It raged with unabated fury, carrying off many children, and baffled every medical art. This distemper was distinguished by the name of the *plague of the pock*, had been brought to Britain by our intercourse with Turkey, and continued its ravages, not only in the town, but over the whole of the island, for nearly two centuries. The first remedy obtained for it was by means of Lady Mary Montague, who introduced inoculation from the country from which the disease was brought. This was so far a relief; but it remained for the celebrated Dr. Jenner, in the beginning of the nineteenth century, to discover the most effectual preventive of the virulence and fatal effects of the small-pox, by means of inoculation with the cow-pock. This has disarmed the original distemper of all its terrors; and, perhaps, in the course of time, like the plague and leprosy, it may disappear altogether.

The fancied crime of witchcraft, which comprehended "*sorcerie, enchantment, and such devilish practices,*" was predominant in the town towards the close of the sixteenth century. It had engrossed the particular attention of the learned and enlightened men of the age; but of none more than King James VI. Persons suspected of it were generally decrepit old women, of the most wretched part of the community. Courts of justice for the trial of supposed delinquents were speedily formed, and commissions were easily obtained from
the

* Council Register, vol. lviii. 591.

† Records of the Church Session, vol. iii. for 1608.

the sovereign to special judges, for taking cognizance of such crimes, in various parts of the kingdom. Suspicion was almost sufficient for conviction; and they generally went hand in hand. In Aberdeen, some shocking examples had been made, in the course of the year 1594, by burning a few old women, who were convicted before the magistrates, as justice deputes;* but this was not considered an adequate expiation by offended fanaticism. There were yet found no fewer than twenty-four women and two men, who laboured under suspicion of witchcraft, within the town, in the space of the two subsequent years. These were seized, under the authority of the magistrates, loaded with irons, and confined, some of them in the steeple, and others in the noisome vault of the church. After undergoing the usual probationary trial of burning with iron on the cheek, *broding*,† and other such refined means of torture, twenty-two of the women and one of the men, who survived, were brought before their fanatic judges, and a jury, consisting of twenty-one persons;‡ and the whole

Z

were

* Council Register, vol. xxxvi. p. 759.

† Pricking with a sharp-pointed instrument.

‡ As several commissions were obtained from the King, and the Duke of Lennox, as Lord Lieutenant of the North, authorising the magistrates to hold justice courts on these unfortunate persons, we shall present the following, as a specimen of these commissions:—

“James, be the grace of God, King of Scottis, To all and sundrie o² liegeis and subdittis, quhome, or to quhais knowlege thir our letteris sall cum, Greting; For samekill as it is understand to us, and Lordis of o² secreit counsall, That Jenett Wischert, spous to Johnne Leyis, stabulair in Aberdene; Thomas Leyis, hir sone; ——— Leyis, her dochteris; and Isobelle Cokie, in Kintor, are takin be the provest and bailleis of Aberdene, and committat to warde, as suspect and giltie of witchcraft, socerie, and utheris diuilishe and detestabill practizeis; uponn quhome necesser it is, That iustice be ministrat, conforme to pe lawis of o² realme. Quhairfoir, we have maid and constitute, and be yir fntis makis and constitutis, o² louittis, the provest and bailleis of o² burgh of Aberdene, our iusticeis in that p¹, to the effect underwrittin, Gevand, grantand, and comittand to thaim our full power and commissionn, expres bidding, and charge, courte or courtis to mak be callit, absentes to amerchiat, unlawis, amerchiamendis, and escheittis of the saidis courtis, to ask, lift, and rais, and, for the same, giff neid beis, to poind and distrenzie; And, in the same courte or courtis, the saidis personis, to call be dittay, to accuis, and thame to the knowlege of an assise to putt; And, as yai sall happen to be fundin culpabill or innocent, To caus iustice be ministrat uponn yame, conforme to the lawis of o² realme; assyiss neidfull to this effect of the personis that best knawis the verritie in the said mater, ilk persone under the pane of L.40. To su^mond, warne theis, and caus be sworn, clarkis, f²iands, dempstaris, and all utheris officiaris and memberis of courte needfull; To mak, creat, substitute, and ordane, for quhome yai sal be haldin to an² The escheit guidis and geir of pe saidis personis, in cais thay sal happin to be convict and iustifeit to

were convicted, one of them of *cighteen points of dittay*. They were, of course, condemned to the flames; and, in order to make a due impression on the minds of the people, their sufferings took place, at short intervals, at the Castlehill, in the course of the years 1596-7. But the prejudices of the people were so strong against this imaginary crime, that they beheld the shocking spectacle without sympathy, and with insensibility, while every spark of humanity would seem to have been extinguished. The bodies of the two women who had died by the torture which had been inflicted upon them, were dragged through the streets in a cart, and, being denied Christian burial, were thrown into the earth. John Crichton, the other of the men, was transported to the castle of Dunnottar, where he suffered in the flames. The dean of guild superintended this *auto da fe*, and, as a remuneration for his services, he was allowed the sum of L.47 3s. 4d. which he retained in his accounts. Gilbert Barns, one of the town's serjeants, received a gratuity of forty merks, for his attendance on the sufferers, while in confinement. The whole expence incurred by these executions, exclusive of the fees to the dean of guild and the officer, amounted to no less than L.178 17s. 4d.* which was advanced from

the deid, for the said cryme, To ask, lift, and, for ye same, gif neid beis, to poind and distrenzie; The ane half thair of to oure use, to inbring and delyverance of þe same to o² thesaurar in o² name to mak; And the uthir half to our saidis iusticeis awne use, for thair labouris to apply; And generalie all and sundrie uthiris thingis, To do exerce and use quhilkis of law or consnetude of o² realme ar knawine to appertene.—Charging, &c. Gevin under o² signet, and subscreyuit with o² hand, at Haliruid-hous, the second day of February, and of o³ reign the 30th year, 1596.”

“ J. LINDSAY, *Secretarius*.”

“ JAMES R.”

Dors.—“ Comission to þe þvest and baillies to halde justice on Janet Wischart.—Sche is cōvick xvii February, 1596, by xxi persons of assise, of xviii þytis of dittay, and as a common weser and socrer, and ordint to be brunt q̃² she be deid. Isobel Cokkie, in K̃ȳtor, be vertew of þis comission, cōvick and brunt, 19th February, 1696.”

* It may not be incurious here to present an extract from the accounts of the dean of guild, for the year from September 1596 to 1597, of the particular charges attending these extraordinary executions:—

		<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
1595	Item, for tar barrels, fire, peats, tows, and stake, used in burning the witches	3	0	0
...	for <i>cirding</i> Sapphock, who died in prison	0	6	8
				<i>Janet</i>

from the funds of the guildry. In the beginning of the subsequent century, fanaticism still influenced the people against sorcerers, and

z 2

those

		<i>Janet Wischart and Isabel Cockie</i>			<i>L. s. d.</i>		
1596	Item, for xx load of peats	-	-	-	2	0	0
	... a boll of coals	-	-	-	1	4	0
	... iv tar barrels	-	-	-	1	6	8
	... fire, and iron barrels	-	-	-	0	16	8
	... a stake, and for dressing it	-	-	-	0	16	0
	... iv fathom of rope	-	-	-	0	0	4
	... carrying the peats, coals, and barrels, to the hill	-	-	-	0	13	4
	... John Justice, for their execution	-	-	-	0	6	8
	Item, for <i>trailing</i> Monteith through the streets in a cart, she having hanged herself in prison; cart hire, and <i>eirding</i> her	-	-	-	0	10	0
		<i>Thomas Leyis</i>					
	Item, the xxiii of February, 1596, for peats, tar barrels, fire and coals, and executioner's fee, ut supra	-	-	-	3	13	4
		<i>Christian Mitchel, Bessie Thom, and Isobel Barron</i>					
	Item, for peats, tar barrels, &c. ut supra	-	-	-	10	0	8
		<i>Katharine Fergus, alias Seudle, and Margaret Clerk, alias Bean</i>					
	Item, for peats, tar barrels, &c. ut supra	-	-	-	13	16	6
	... Gilbert Birnie, for maintaining the witches	-	-	-	20	0	0
		<i>Isobel Ritchie, Margaret Og, Helen Rodger, and Elspet Henderson</i>					
	Item, for xliiii loads of peats	-	-	-	4	7	0
	... iiii tar barrels	-	-	-	1	10	0
	... ii oil barrels	-	-	-	0	18	0
	... vi loads of fir	-	-	-	0	10	8
	... ii iron barrels	-	-	-	0	6	8
	... viii fathoms of rope	-	-	-	0	0	8
	... peats and coals, to try them in the library, two days before the execution	-	-	-	0	6	8
	... a stake, dressing, and carriage	-	-	-	0	16	8
	... carriage of peats, coals, and barrels	-	-	-	0	13	4
	... a spear, broken at the execution	-	-	-	0	0	4
	... John Justice, for his fee	-	-	-	1	0	0
		<i>Katharine Gerard, Christian Reid, and Janet Grant</i>					
	Item, for coals, peats, and similar articles	-	-	-	8	2	0
		<i>Helen Fraser, and Katharine Forres</i>					
	Item, for coals, peats, and similar articles	-	-	-	7	7	0
		<i>Helen Gray, and Agnes Webster</i>					
	Item, for coals, peats, and similar articles	-	-	-	6	8	8
		<i>Janet Douglas, Agnes Smellie, and Katharine Elshioner</i>					
	Item, for coals, peats, and similar articles	-	-	-	12	8	4
	... for the hire of a horse, to carry John Crichton, who was apprehended as a witch, to Dunnotter	-	-	-	0	8	4
					1597	Item,	

those suspected of witchcraft. In the year 1630, several women, who were under suspicion of this imaginary crime, were seized, as proper objects of the cognizance of the magistrates. The privy council was applied to for a commission to institute a court of justice; and, in order that it might be obtained with the greater facility, the declaration of *Marion Hardy*, an old woman, was taken upon oath, with great solemnity, in presence of the bishop of Aberdeen, the ministers, and the magistrates. By these means the commission was procured, and a justice court was immediately instituted. Several unhappy women were convicted, and suffered the punishment which was appointed for the crime; while others, who had died from the exercise of cruelty upon them in confinement, were dragged through the streets in the usual manner, and committed to the earth.* Some years afterwards, the suspicion of witchcraft still prevailed in the town; but the civil commotions in the nation soon diverted the attention of the people to objects which involved the most serious consequences to themselves; and *sorcery, charmers, and witchcraft*, are no more mentioned.

In the former part of the sixteenth century, the ancient games and amusements of the citizens had gradually declined, and gone
into

1597	Item, to Gilbert Birnie, for maintaining the witches in prison, from 16th March	L.	s.	d.
May 27	to 23d May, 1596	-	-	50 13 4
...	to Alex. Reid, smith, for two pair of shackles to the witches in the steeple			1 12 0
...	to Thomas Dickson, for halbert broken at their execution	-		1 10 0
...	to John Justice, for burning on the cheek four persons suspected of witchcraft, who were banished	-	-	1 6 8
...	to Alex. Howie, for making joggis, stapples, and locks	-		2 6 8

The sum of the whole charges and expences made on the witches extends to aucht score xviii lib. xvii sh. iiii d. heard, considered, and audited by the auditors, subscribing at Aberdeen, the twenty-second day of September, 1597.

ALEXANDER RUTHERFURD, P^{ost}.

ALEX. CULLEN.

MR. PATRICK CHEYNE, Bailzie.

ALEX. CULLEN, Bailzie.

Council Register, vol. xxxvi. p. 759.—Annual Accounts of the Dean of Guild, from 1596 to 1597.

* The expence of this *auto da fe* was no less than L.140, for searches, maintenance of the prisoners, and the apparatus for their sufferings.—[*Council Register*, vol. li. p. 544.—*Accounts of the Dean of Guild*, for 1626. 1630. 1632.]

into disuse. The *abbot* and *prior* of *Bon-Accord*, or, as they were sometimes denominated, *Robin Hood* and *Little John*, had often attempted the revival of the favourite sports and pastimes, at which they had been wont to preside; but they met with no encouragement, and, in their frequent attempts to re-establish them, they often experienced, from the lower classes of the people, every species of indignity and raillery, in opposition to the authority of the magistrates. In the æra of the Reformation, all these ancient pastimes and amusements having been completely repressed by the legislature, the young citizens substituted, in their place, other topics of amusement. They performed, for their occasional recreation, *plays*, *fasts*, *histories*, and *antiques*, which were composed of profane subjects. In the course of the frequent visits of King James to the town, they generally regaled him with exhibitions of this kind, which seem to have delighted his Majesty. These, however, were often anathematized by the clergy; but the king compelled them, by his royal mandate, to drop their censures of theatrical representations. In the year 1601, James made an application to Queen Elizabeth for her company of comedians to be sent down to Scotland, which was readily complied with; and, after they had tired his Majesty and the people of Edinburgh with their entertainments, the king ordered them to repair to Aberdeen, to amuse the citizens with the exhibition of their “plays, comedies, and stage plays.” They were recommended by his special letter, addressed to the magistrates, and were under the management of Lawrence Fletcher, who, with the celebrated William Shakespeare, and others of their company, obtained the first licence to perform plays in Britain. It was granted by King James, within two months after he had ascended the throne of England. The company of players who came to Aberdeen performed several times in the town, and were presented by the magistrates with thirty-two marks for their services; besides being entertained with a supper on one of the nights of performance. At the same time, the freedom of the town was conferred upon Lawrence Fletcher, the manager, and each of his company.*

The

* Council Register, vol. xl. p. 210. 229.—Rymer's *Fœdera*, vol. xvi. p. 505.

The art of printing, which has conduced so much to the advantage and improvement of literature, was discovered, on the continent, about the year 1440. The merit of this invention is generally allowed to John Guttemberg, a knight, and citizen of Strasburgh, who made the discovery from the following fortuitous circumstance. Having cut the letters of his name out of the bark of a tree, which was green, and full of sap, he put them into a fine linen handkerchief; and, the letters having left the impression of their own characters upon the linen, inspired him with the thought of making these of metal, with which an impression might be made on paper. He succeeded, and then made types or characters of tin, set them in frames, and brought the art to perfection. He exercised it afterwards in the city of Mentz, which claimed the honour of being the place where printing was invented. The art was introduced into Britain by Mr. William Caxton, mercer, and citizen of London, who had printed at Cologn, in the year 1471, a book, which he had translated from the French into the English language, called the *Recule of the histories of Troy*. On his return to England, he produced, from the press which he established there about the year 1474, a small book, translated from the French, called the *Game at Chess*, which is the first book known with certainty to have been printed in England.* Printing was first practised in Scotland about the middle of the sixteenth century; the oldest specimen being a book entitled *Scotland's Complaynt*, which was printed at St. Andrew's, in the year 1540. In the same year the acts of parliament were ordained to be printed; but the art did not make much progress in Scotland for many years, and was chiefly confined to Edinburgh.

Edward Raban was the first established printer at Aberdeen, or in the north of Scotland. In the year 1621, a patent was obtained from King James, by Bishop Patrick Forbes, and Sir Paul Menzies of Kinnmundie, provost of Aberdeen, for establishing printing at Aberdeen; and Mr. Raban was accordingly appointed, soon after, by the magistrates and council, printer to the town and university; † with the

* Watson's History of Printing, p. 7, et seq.—Harleian Miscellany, vol. iii. p. 156.—Henry, vol. x. p. 201.

† Council Register, vol. li. p. 20.

the exclusive privilege of printing. He was allowed a salary of L.40 annually ; and, for his further encouragement to prosecute the art, a small emolument of 8d. quarterly from each scholar at the Grammar School, which was collected with the school fees. He had acquired the reputation of being, at the time, a very eminent master ;* which, indeed, appears from the specimens of his works. Among these may be mentioned a pocket prayer-book, for the service of the church, printed in the year 1625, with the calendar, and the psalms, set to music, which, we believe, was amongst the first of his works. In the year 1633 Dr. Barron printed his book, *On the Arrival of King Charles in Scotland*, with poems on the coronation ; which was dedicated to the magistrates and council. In 1636, a volume *Of the Funerals* of a right reverend Father in God, Patrick Forbes of Corse, bishop of Aberdeen, was published in Aberdeen : and the Canons and Constitution of the Church, were printed there in the same year.

Mr. Raban carried on the printing business until the year 1649, when he died ; and was succeeded in his office of printer to the town and university by James Brown, son of William Brown, minister of Invernochty.

Although the exigencies of the state, and various other public matters, frequently exposed the citizens to heavy impositions and contributions, which they could not avoid, yet these did not prevent them from exercising acts of benevolence for the relief of others who were in distress, whether at home or abroad. Among many instances of this sort, we have to mention a contribution made for the citizens of Haddington, when their town was burnt by an accidental fire in the year 1598.† On the 23d May, in the year 1624, the town of Dunfermline experienced a similar calamity, no fewer than 220 houses, occupied by 287 families, their whole household furniture, and 500 bolls of grain in barns, having been consumed by fire, on this disastrous occasion. On intelligence of this calamitous event, the citizens of Aberdeen immediately assembled in a head court, and ordered a voluntary contribution to be made in the town for the unfortunate

* Watson's History of Printing, Preface, p. 9. † Council Register, vol. xxxvii. p. 707. 741.

fortunate sufferers. The sum of L.1600 was speedily raised by a voluntary subscription, and paid to the commissioners who were deputed by the magistrates of Dunfermline to receive this benevolent aid.* Some years afterwards, another voluntary contribution was made by the citizens, of 1000 merks, which were paid to the magistrates of Ayr, to enable them to ransom several of the inhabitants of their town, who had been made captives by the Algerines;† and, as early as the year 1579, we are informed that 100 merks had been collected for the relief of Scottish prisoners at Morocco, taken by the Turks.‡ For all these, and other benevolent acts, the citizens of Aberdeen do not appear to have reaped any return, even at the close of the civil wars, when they were almost reduced to penury by the many distresses and calamities which they had suffered during these commotions.

In the early part of the sixteenth century, extravagant feasting had made considerable progress in the town, particularly at marriages and baptisms; and the citizens not unfrequently indulged themselves in the luxuries of the table, and in the convivial glass, at their occasional meetings. The game laws being very little known, and not much regarded, they had abundance of venison and wild fowl on every occasion. While the sovereign, by his proclamation, forbade them to eat flesh, except at certain times, under severe penalties; the magistrates found it expedient to restrain superfluities of venison and *wild meat*, and also the use of *confections*, *spiceries*, and *deserts*, at entertainments. In the year 1623, a solemn act of the town council was passed, by which it was ordained that the citizens should invite no more than four *gossops* and four *cummers* to any of their children's baptisms, six women to convoy the child to and from the church; and no more than six men and six women to any dinner, or supper, or *afternoon's* drink at baptisms.§ Two years afterwards it was enacted, by the same authority, that no person should, at any public or private meeting, *presume* to compel his neighbour at table with him
to

* Council Register, vol. li. p. 123. 133.

† Ibid. vol. lii. p. 347. 373.

‡ Council Register, vol. xxix. p. 690.

§ Ibid. vol. li. p. 85. 303.

to drink more wine or beer than what he pleased, under the penalty of L.40.* But these sumptuary laws did not restrain the citizens from occasionally indulging themselves whenever an opportunity offered.

After the æra of the Reformation, the disposition of the people in general seems to have been gloomy and morose. Although not averse to social intercourse, they were violent and resentful in their tempers, and relaxed in their morals.† This appears from the numerous instances of murder and assassination,‡ which were perpetrated, in the most audacious and barbarous manner, in the former part of the present æra; and from the many delinquencies and immoralities which were then the subjects of cognizance of the civil and ecclesiastical courts. In the exercise of the duties of religion, they appear to have been actuated by a bigotted and intolerant spirit; for the least deviation from the ordinances of the church was considered as an unpardonable offence, and punished with severity. No sooner had they accomplished their freedom from the fetters of the Romish church, than they displayed their exuberant fancy in the variety of punishments which they devised to repress popery, and immoralities, of every denomination. Among the first operations of the reformed clergy, and their lay coadjutors, was the establishment of a general code of laws, for punishing those who adhered to the tenets of the catholic religion, or were guilty of carnal impurities. The church session of Aberdeen was duly constituted, in November, 1562, by the appointment of fourteen lay elders and seven deacons,§ with the chief magistrate of the town at their head, to enforce

A a

their

* Council Register, vol. li. p. 304.

† In 1570, no fewer than fifty persons were banished from the town, in one day, by a sentence of the magistrates, being *deleted* by the *privy inquest* for their crimes and demerits; and seventy-four were bound over for their better behaviour in future. These were probably a fortieth part of the whole population of the town.—[*Council Register*, vol. xxvii. p. 453.]

‡ Miscellaneous Occurrences, p. 139.

§ They were first named by the congregation, assembled in the church; and, on the Sunday following, their names being publicly proclaimed, they were confirmed, as elders and deacons, for the ensuing year. The nomination took place about the month of October annually.—[*Church Session Register*, vol. i.]

their decrees by the exercise of his powers of jurisdiction, over unfortunate delinquents, whether refractory or submissive. In order to scrutinize the morals of the people, and to watch them in their unguarded moments, visitors were appointed for the markets, and other public places of resort; and offenders were arraigned by them before that tribunal for the sins of incontinence, and for every trespass of the tongue. From the many singular cases of misdemeanour which came under the cognizance of the church session, at their hebdomedal sederunts, these visitors appear to have laboured most zealously in their vocation. The session possessed unbounded authority, being legislative, judicative, and executive. In the first instance, statutes were enacted against popery,* adultery, fornication, and blasphemy; with gradations of punishment suited to the nature of the offence.† Under the authority of this tribunal, these punishments were

* On the 13th May, 1604, John Melvill, painter, was accused before the kirk session for painting a crucifix to the burial of the Lady Gight. Having attended, he produced an order in writing from her son, for executing the work, which was the means of freeing him from punishment.

We shall anticipate a little, in point of chronology, by giving the following case: 28th June, 1640.—The session having understood that some captains and gentlemen of the regiment quartered in the town had taken offence at the portrait of the deceased Alexander Reid of Pitfoddels, as *smelling somewhat of popery*, and standing above the session-house door, ordained it to be taken down, and removed. *N.B.*—Mr. Reid had been provost of Aberdeen in the year 1493; and this painting had been placed there, as a mark of regard to his memory, by the citizens.

† Among the many statutes enacted by the Church Session, in November, 1562, the following may be given as a specimen:—

1.—“ That any person who teaches, holds, or affirms, any creature in heaven or in earth to be called upon, prayed to, (help or succour, sought at,) pardon or remission of sins to be obtained and gotten, but through and by the passion of Jesus Christ, his death and merits, shall be removed, cursed, and excommunicated from the society and company of this congregation, till such person shall ask forgiveness of God and the congregation openly on the Sabbath, in the church, in time of divine service. If the person be *potent*, he shall pay 20s. for the first fault; 40s. for the second; and, for the third, he is to suffer excommunication. Every person taking the name of God in vain, swearing by creatures, banning and cursing, to pay for each fault an *hardhead*‡ to the poor. Swearing openly on the streets, if potent, to pay 12d.; the poor to be put in the *cuckstool*,§ or *goffis*. Open blasphemers to be put on the *cuckstool*, with a crown of paper on the head, circumscribed with the nature of the offence; and, after being so punished thrice, to be banished from the town. All filthy talkers at the table to be punished in the same manner.

2.—“ Adultery,

‡ Equal to a farthing.

§ Pillory.

were inflicted on delinquents, by imprisonment in the noisome dungeon under the vestry of the church; confinement in the steeple; flogging at a stake, both before and after conviction;* ducking; pillorying; and carting through the streets of the town, with a crown of paper, circumscribed with the nature of the offence; scourging, and banishing: the mildest of all these odious and multifarious punishments being exposure in sackcloth, on the stool of repentance, in the church.† Nay, the session exercised its jurisdiction in cases of domestic

A a 2

mestic

2.—“Adultery, whoredom, and fornication, which are all contrary to the law of God, having been negligently overseen, and not regarded, it is ordained, that all *bordeleris*,‡ notorious and manifest *harlots*, and *whores*, be removed and banished from the town. Item, all *panders*, who are persuaders of maidens, or men's wives, to commit whoredom, to be banished. All other fornicators to be forgiven the first fault, on asking forgiveness of God and the congregation; for the second to be carted and ducked in the water; and for the third to be banished. Manifest adulterers to be carted through the town, and banished, (*in regard the session and magistrates have no power to punish by death, which is the law.*) Persons suspected of adultery to be first admonished; and, if they do not forbear the company of those with whom they are suspected, to be punished as open adulterers.”—[*Church Session Register*, vol. i.]

* Margaret Warrack was committed to the correction house, where she was ordered to remain, during the pleasure of the session, until she confessed her sin of fornication with James Aberdeen. In the meantime, she was ordered to be whipped at the *stake* on the morrow!—[*Records of Church Session*, 14th June, 1640.]

† As specimens of the many cases of delinquency which occurred before the church session, and of the punishments awarded, we have selected the following:—

21st January, 1562.—Elspet Murray was ordered to be carted, and banished from the town, it being sufficiently proven that she was a *bordelier*. William Christie, cordwainer, and Margaret Myrton, were ordered to suffer the same punishment, for being common adulterers. 31st March, 1568.—John Park, accused of incest with his daughter-in-law, which he *denied*, was ordered to be confined in the vault under the vestry of the church, for 48 hours, and fed on bread and water! 28th November, 1602.—Janet Sherar, who had been banished for harlotry, having returned, was ordered to be imprisoned in the *vault*, ducked at the *cran*,§ and again ordered to be banished. The ducking, however, to be dispensed with, on payment of 10 merks. 10th July, 1603.—Alex. Brodie, found guilty of double adultery, was ordered to be carted through the streets, with a crown of paper on his head, circumscribed with the nature of his offence, and banished. 24th July.—Janet Strachan, who had been previously banished as a notorious harlot, was ordered to be fastened to a cart, drawn through the streets, scourged, and publicly banished! 31st July.—Janet Knowles, having no money to pay her fine for fornication, was ordered to be pilloried in the *joggis*, with her head shaven, and to stand at the pillar of repentance on Sunday following. Isobel Coutts, accused of fornication and *trelapse*, was ordered to sit, three several Sundays, on the stool of repentance, to be imprisoned in the kirk vault, and fed on bread and water, till Saturday, when she was ordered to be taken to the cross, put in the *joggis*, and to have her head shaved.

‡ Keepers of brothels.

§ Ducking was inflicted in the tide, by means of the crane on the quay.

mestic strife betwixt husband and wife ;* and over refractory apprentices, of every description. In order to fill up the measure of this combination of offences and punishments, it was enacted, 28th November, 1602, that all persons guilty of antenuptial fornication shall make their repentance on the *laigh stool*,† on Sunday, besides being subject to a fine, at the discretion of the session, before they were entitled to the benefit of the marriage ceremony. Young men and women dancing together at weddings, or at Christmas, in masks, and dressed in each others clothes, were liable to be punished by a fine for the first offence ; and, for the second, they were subjected to make a public repentance, in sackcloth, on Sunday, in the church. Even lighting fires on the streets on Midsummer-day, being considered as fostering superstition, was an offence, which was liable to be punished at the discretion of the session.‡ It appears from the records, that these laws were not made, and such severities attached to them, for speculation only ; they were, like those of the Medes and Persians, declared unalterable,§ and enforced, with the utmost rigour, for a period of upwards of one hundred years. To attempt an appeal from the decrees of this tribunal, or to be an accessory or abettor in such case, was almost equal to the offence itself, and punished accordingly.

* 14th November, 1562.—John Davidson, who was complained of by his wife for non-adherence, having declined to attend the second diet of appearance, was ordered to be committed to the *steepie*!—[*Church Session Register*, vol. i. ii. iii.]

† In the church, there was appropriated to ecclesiastical delinquents an elevated seat, near the pulpit, in which they underwent the acrimonious rebukes of the minister, after the sermon. This was called the *pillar*, or *high stool of repentance*. Under it was another, less conspicuous, for offenders, who were obliged to profess their contrition, and submit to admonition, which was called the *laigh stool*.

‡ Alex. Rutherford, provost, Thomas Menzies, baillie, and twelve other citizens, were *deleted* before the session, 3d July, 1608, for setting a fire on the *calsey*, on Midsummer-even, against the laws of the country, fostering thereby superstition. Their answer, which was that their children had done it, seems to have quashed the business, as nothing further appears to have been done.

§ 14th October, 1604.—It is ordained, that no acts or ordinances, made, or to be made, by the session, be called in question, directly or indirectly, in time coming ! Neither the execution thereof, nor obedience thereto, come in voting, so long as it stands unreformed or annulled, by common consent of the session, by any other act ; but that all acts and statutes be kept and observed, and receive execution, after the form and tenor thereof, in all points.

ingly.* But, in reviewing this singular part of our history, however much we may reflect upon those rigid laws, and the severities which were used in the exercise of them, we are not to attribute these solely to the clergy. The whole proceeded from the people themselves, or their representatives in the church session; for the pastor was only one of twenty-two, who composed the legislative assembly, or formed the tribunal which applied these laws and enforced their execution.

In this æra, the capital punishments of hanging, beheading, burning, or drowning,† were very frequent; and even torture before trial was not uncommon. For petty theft, returning from banishment, or for repeated transgressions—burning on the cheek, whipping, standing in the *branks*, or in the pillory, crowned with paper, circumscribed with the nature of the offence, were the arbitrary punishments generally inflicted on delinquents. In the period previous to the Reformation, the punishment for misdemeanours was commonly of an ecclesiastical nature. The offender was ordered to appear in the church, on Sunday, in his shirt, bare-headed and bare-footed, with a wax candle in his hand, of dimensions suited to the offence, as an offering to the church; at the same time, he was obliged to ask pardon of the magistrates and the party offended, for the injury which he had committed.

At the close of this æra, several ancient customs continued to prevail in the town. Young men and women, interchanging the dress of their sex, and disguising themselves with masks and bells, frequented marriage entertainments, where they carolled and danced; and,

* 18th December, 1604.—Andrew Clark, advocate in Aberdeen, was accused for behaving irreverently, on Sunday, towards Bishop Blackburn, when admonishing William Allan for non-adherence to his wife, by making public opposition and contradiction to the Bishop's proceedings, and taking instruments in the hands of two notaries. Having confessed his offence, and submitted himself to the session, it was decreed, "that he should appear, on Sunday next, in the new church; and there, in the same place where he offended, to sit down on his knees, confess his offence, and crave God and the congregation, and particularly the minister whom he had offended, pardon and forgiveness, promising never to fall in the like gross misbehaviour in time coming." On Sunday, 23d December, he submitted to this degrading punishment; and Arthur Watt, the notary, made the same atonement for his offence.—[*Register of Church Session*, vol. ii.]

† Register of Births and Burials, vol. i, ii, iii.

and, in the same ludicrous attire, intruded upon the inhabitants at Christmas and New-year's day, carolling and dancing, in expectation of some small gratuity; the citizens resorted to Downiehill and Saint Fethac's well, in the parish of Nigg, on the nights of Saturdays, in the month of May, and lighted fires on the streets on Midsummer eve; and the children at school paraded through the town to the cross, with lights in their hands, on Candlemas day. These customs continued to be practised by the people, although they were prohibited by the civil magistrate, under severe penalties, and anathematised, as superstitious, by the ecclesiastical court. They prevailed even towards the latter end of the eighteenth century, and some of them are not yet in disuse.

The custom of attending funerals in black clothes began to prevail in Aberdeen towards the close of the sixteenth century. On the occasion of the funeral of Kennedy of Carmuck, constable of Aberdeen, who was buried in St. Nicholas church, in the year 1591, it was requisite to obtain permission from the magistrates and council to the attendants to wear black clothes and arms; for which permission L.10 were paid to the master of the church and bridge works. The place of sepulture of the inhabitants, at this period, was generally in the interior of the church, or contiguous aisles: but the practice of using coffins, or chests, for the bodies, seems not to have been universal. On the funeral of any person of respectability in the town, there was a degree of pomp displayed which is unknown in the present times. It was the custom to fix on the walls of the church *gumphions*,* arms, and black cloth; but this was, in time, prohibited, by an act of the town council, except on the funeral of a baron of consideration, or of one who had filled the office of chief magistrate of the town.† Mortcloths were first introduced about the beginning of the seventeenth century, one of black velvet, the other of black cloth; and the fees established for these make part of the revenue appropriated to the expence of supporting the church.‡ The
company

* Mortheads. † Council Register, vol. xxxiii. 994.—Church and Bridge Accounts, 1591.

‡ Council Register, vol. xlvii. 508.

company attending funerals was generally invited by the common bellman, who passed through the town, and was frequently accompanied by the bellman of Old Aberdeen, to add to the solemnity. Certain appropriate verses were recited by the bellman on the occasion; and no grave was allowed to be opened until he had been previously employed. This custom prevailed for many subsequent years; and was not completely in disuse till towards the middle of the eighteenth century.

Among the many municipal laws established by the magistrates during this century, several regulations appear to have been introduced regarding the dress of both sexes. It was enacted, that no burgess of guild should appear in a plaid and blue bonnet. Married women were prohibited from wearing plaids, covering the head, either at church or market, or on the streets, except they were "*harlots and suspected persons*:" and servant maids were restrained from appearing in ruffs, or curches of lawn or cambric, or red hoods, under the penalty of having them torn off, and trampled in the kennel.

The dress, however, of a burgess of guild of any consideration appears to have been costly, and even magnificent, in comparison to that of the present times. Among the articles of wearing apparel which occur in the year 1582, there may be mentioned, the cloak of fine silk, with black lining, and silver clasps; a velvet bonnet, with a *crans* of gold, and *tergat* of gold; brown *staming breeks*, *pesmantit* with gold; *staming schanks*; garters of grey taffety, with *pesmantis* of gold; a *casakine* of damask, with *pesmantis* of silver, and long buttons of the same; a gown, of violet *staming*, lined in the breast with serge, and *bounden* with velvet round about; a French black cloak, lined with satin in the breasts, and bordered with six broad edgings of velvet round about; a doublet of Lyons canvas.*

The dress of a lady was still the ruff, curche, red hude, kirtle, and farthingal; her ornaments of dress being of silver. The dress of the ordinary class of men was the *sark*, *doublet*, coat, hose, gown, cloak,

* Council Register, vol. xxx. p. 180.

cloak, shoes, and *pantunis*; and of the women, the red *kirtill*, and russet gown.

Among the articles of furniture, we find sheets of linen, and head sheets, tied with black ribbons; beds of fine downs, double blankets, *lang sadel* bed, *danskyne chests*, chairs, table, trests, and chandeliers. The sword and buckler, and *muricomm*, were part of the armour of a burghess of guild.

In the course of this æra, the poverty of the princes, and the limited resources of the kingdom, still exposed the citizens to heavy contributions for the exigencies of the state. The sums levied by assessment on the inhabitants, from time to time, for exemptions from military services, for municipal charges, and for the use of the sovereign, were very considerable, besides the value of the numerous presents made to the royal family, in wine, and other articles, under the denomination of propines. Commerce, therefore, must have been the only means of enabling the citizens to support the burden of such repeated exactions.

The exports appear to have been nearly of the same description with those in the preceding æras, although, perhaps, to a much greater extent. The imports were chiefly of the same nature with what have been previously mentioned; but these also had probably been upon a larger scale. Since the Reformation, the people had been more industrious, made greater exertions in trade, and become more affluent; and their wants and luxuries had accordingly increased.

Some indications of manufactures in the town appear in the end of this century. Michael Wandail, a Fleming, was permitted, by the magistrates and council, to exercise his occupation as a manufacturer of grograms, worsets, and stamings, without any impediment from the weaver corporation, on condition of taking into his employment an apprentice, and instructing him in weaving and dying these sorts of cloth.* In the year 1612, we find that Fabian Fanton

* Council Register, vol. xxxvii. p. 106.

Fanton and Antonie Samboya, two foreigners, were permitted by the magistrates to exercise their trade of making heckles, and traps for taking rats and mice.

The coinage in circulation was gold, silver, and billon, or copper coin; the whole, except the last, being chiefly foreign. This will be best explained by the table in the note, with its corresponding value in ancient Scottish money,* as sanctioned by an act of the town council,† in conformity to the established authority.

The last years of the sixteenth century being remarkable for an uncommon scarcity and dearth in the country, owing to bad seasons, and other unfavourable circumstances, the inhabitants experienced considerable privations and distresses, in common with those in other parts of the kingdom; and it would seem that, in many places, these distresses had approached to famine. In the year 1596, the magistrates imported a supply to the town of rye and rye-meal; of the former three hundred eighteen and three-fourth bolls, at the rate of L.8 the boll; of the latter, twenty-five lasts,‡ three barrels, at the price of L.7 the boll; which amounted in value to the sum of L.5719. About the same time, they purchased, for the like

B b

purpose

* Table of Coinage current in Aberdeen in A.D. 1590.

GOLD.				SILVER.			
The Spanish Pistolet	-	-	£.3 4 8	The Spanish Ryal	-	-	£.2 5 0
French Crown	-	-	3 6 8	Cross Dollar	-	-	2 4 8
Hary Ducat	-	-	7 5 0	Prince Dollar	-	-	2 13 4
Cunhoil Angel	-	-	5 2 0	Fifteen Sous Piece	-	-	0 15 6
Angel Noble	-	-	5 5 0	French Festeen	-	-	0 15 0
Double Ducat	-	-	7 2 6	English Festeen	-	-	0 10 0
Genlis Noble	-	-	7 17 4	Old 30s. Piece	-	-	2 13 4
Hary Noble	-	-	7 3 4	Two Part Piece thereof	-	-	1 15 6
Old Rose Noble	-	-	8 0 0	Third Part thereof	-	-	0 17 9
Portugal Ducat	-	-	37 3 6	New 20s. Piece	-	-	2 0 0
Scottish Rose Noble	-	-	8 5 0	20s. Piece	-	-	1 6 8
Hatt Piece	-	-	4 13 8	Old 10s. Piece	-	-	0 13 3
Lyon Piece	-	-	5 4 4	New 10s. Piece	-	-	0 10 8
Five Round Piece	-	-	5 6 8	Half Merk Piece	-	-	0 7 0

† Council Register, vol. xxvii. p. 905.

‡ A last of rye was 18, and sometimes 19 bolls.

purpose, four thousand bolls of meal, at the rate of L.4 the boll ;* but from what places these supplies were obtained we have not been able to discover. Corn appears to have continued equally scarce and dear during several years ; for we find, that, in the year 1598, wheat was at the rate of L.10 the boll ; and, in the year 1600, meal at the price of L.8 the boll. In these times, the prices of all other provisions and necessaries were proportionally high.

At the close of the present æra, the population of Aberdeen may be collected pretty nearly from the register of marriages, baptisms, and burials, which commences soon after the Reformation. This register was established under the authority of the magistrates, and was kept with some degree of method and apparent correctness till the year 1592 ; but after this period we have to remark, that the same accuracy and attention have not been observed in bringing forward a record of so much importance, both in a public and private point of view. Had the system with which the register sets out been carefully and strictly observed, down to the present period, it would have afforded most valuable information, not only to political writers, but to ourselves, regarding our ancestors, and their various connections and occupations in life. Meagre as this record happens to be, it has contributed its ample share of information to our present work.

By the annexed table, which has been made up from this register, it will appear, that, for the ten years previous to the year 1582, the annual average of marriages was 50.5 ; of births, 68.7 males, 69.9 females, and 25.2 illegitimate children—the total annual average of legitimate and illegitimate children being 163.8 ; and that the annual average of deaths was 74.8. Assuming, therefore, the average of births as the 35. part of the whole population, according to the principles laid down in Dr. Price's work, we may be allowed to estimate the whole, at the end of the year 1581, to have been 5833. For the subsequent decade, to the year 1592, the average of the whole births is 208.6, which, according to the same principles, would make the population then to have been 7301. From the year 1603

to

* Council Register, vol. xxxvi. p. 567. 573.

to the year 1615, both inclusive, the annual average of births is, of males, 122.07—of females, 100.923—and the total, 223.; which, by the same rule, would make the whole population to have been, at this last period, 7805. We may, therefore, estimate it, in the year 1633, to have been 8000 persons, of all ages. In confirmation of this, it may be mentioned, that, in the year 1619, when the citizens were mustered at the annual weaponshaw, there were 550* fit to bear arms, besides some who happened to be absent on that occasion.

At the dawn of the Reformation, the population has been ascertained to have been only about 4000 persons; so that, in the space of seventy years, it would appear to have been doubled. This, in some measure, may be attributed to the circumstance of the pestilence having seldom, or perhaps never, infested the town during this period; and to the long peace and tranquillity which prevailed in the nation after King James had ascended the throne of England.

The prevailing surnames in Aberdeen, during this æra, were:—Alexander, Anderson, Bannerman, Brebner, Buck, Burnett, Chalmers, Cheyne, Cochran, Colinson, Cruickshank, Cullen, Davidson, Dun, Duvy, Endiach, Ewen, Farquhar, Forbes, Gordon, Gray, Guild, Howison, Irvine, Jaffray, Johnston, Kennedy, King, Kintore, Knowles, Laing, Leslie, Lorimer, Lowson, Lumsden, Marr, Menzies, Mercer, Meldrum, Middleton, Moir, Mollison, Morrison, Mortimer, Nicolson, Park, Petrie, Rolland, Ronaldson, Rutherford, Scherar, Seton, Skene, Strachan, Tullidef.

* Council Register, vol. xlix. p. 333.

TABLE OF MARRIAGES, BIRTHS, AND BURIALS, IN ABERDEEN,

From the Year 1572 to 1615, inclusive.

YEAR.	MARRIAGES.	BIRTHS.			ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN.	BURIALS.
		Males.	Females.	Total.		
1572	37	35	45	80	35	72
1573	32	32	40	72	36	84
1574	85	57	70	127	34	74
1575	58	42	64	106	10	107
1576	48	76	98	174	28	59
1577	52	99	81	180	23	62
1578	34	75	80	155	25	78
1579	55	90	72	162	12	40
1580	58	90	78	168	29	94
1581	46	91	71	162	20	78
<i>Average</i>	505	687	699	1386	252	748
	50.5	67.7	69.9	138.6	25.2	74.8
YEAR.						
1582	62	83	79	162	21	82
1583	43	111	75	186	25	69
1584	46	99	74	173	15	59
1585	44	89	97	186	32	74
1586	58	80	93	173	26	59
1587	50	97	96	193	28	82
1588	72	109	83	192	23	99
1589	53	89	86	175	23	125
1590	66	93	94	187	40	67
1591	59	102	86	188	38	80
<i>Average</i>	553	952	863	1815	271	796
	55.3	95.2	86.3	181.5	27.1	79.6
YEAR.						
1603		104	93	197		
1604		110	77	187		
1605		105	84	189		
1606		95	104	199		
1607		97	101	198		
1608		130	94	224		
1609		150	96	246		
1610		120	125	245		
1611		115	130	245		
1612		150	102	252		
1613		145	105	250		
1614		131	105	236		
1615		135	96	231		
<i>Average</i>		1587	1312	2899		
		122.07	100.923	223.		

TABLE OF CONTRIBUTIONS BY ABERDEEN TO GOVERNMENT,

FROM A.D. 1559 TO A.D. 1633.

		SCOTTISH MONEY.					
		<i>Ancient.</i>			<i>Modern.</i>		
1562	To Queen Mary, propine presented to her Majesty -	L.1333	6	8	L.3693	6	0
1565	... the King and Queen, in lieu of service in the army assembled in Lorn, under John, Earl of Athol, to repress the rebels at Dumfries - -	300	0	0	831	0	0
1570	... town's proportion of L.12,000, raised from the whole kingdom - - - -	190	0	0	380	0	0
1574	... the Earl of Morton, contribution levied from the community - - - -	2666	13	4	5760	0	0
—	... charge for importing bullion - - - -	1000	0	0	2160	0	0
1579	For the town's proportion of 10,000 merks, for the charge of repairing the Bridge of St. Johnston, ordered by Parliament - - - -	125	5	0	270	10	10
—	Do. of Charges of the Army at Peebles - - - -	201	10	0	435	4	10
1580	To King James VI. on visiting the town - - - -	2000	0	0	3280	0	0
1583	For the town's proportion of L.200,000, granted by Parliament for the King's supplies, and payment of his debts - - - -	372	6	0	558	9	0
1585	... the town's proportion of L.200,000, on the whole kingdom, for charges of the army against Lord Maxwell - - - -	372	6	0	558	9	0
1590	... the charge of a ship for convoy of the King and Queen from Denmark - - - -	1600	0	0	2400	0	0
1592	To the Captain of the King's Guard, for dispensing with the citizens' attendance on his Majesty, in his progress northward - - - -	200	0	0	300	0	0
1594	For the town's proportion of L.100,000, granted to his Majesty by Parliament - - - -	1388	6	8	2082	10	0
—	Do. of L.20,000, for two months assessment on the boroughs, for charges of the Army in Aberdeen, against the rebels of the north - - - -	1600	0	0	2400	0	0
—	To the Duke of Lennox, Lieutenant of the north - - - -	206	0	0	309	0	0
1597	For the town's proportion of 200,000 merks, granted by Parliament to the King, for the charges of ambassadors to foreign countries - - - -	1777	15	4	2666	13	0
1600	To the King, on his being in town, and for charges attending his visit - - - -	2366	13	4	2840	0	0
—	For charges of entertaining the Queen, on her visit - - - -	1833	6	8	2200	0	0
—	... the town's proportion of 100,000 merks, granted by Parliament for the charges of ambassadors to foreign countries - - - -	888	17	8	1366	13	2
Carried forward		L.20422	6	8	L.34191	15	10

		SCOTTISH MONEY.
	Brought forward	L.20422 6 8
1604	To the town's proportion of the charges of commissioners appointed to treat concerning the Union with England	866 18 10 $\frac{3}{4}$
1606	Do. of the sum of 400,000 merks, granted by the Parliament to the King, for payment of his debts, and repairing his palaces, 1st part	898 17 9
1607	Do. of charges of commissioners for the boroughs delegated to England	80 0 0
1613	To the King, in lieu of service in the army sent against the Isles	373 6 8
—	... the town's proportion of the first moiety of L.240,000, granted by Parliament, for the charges attending the marriage of the Princess Elizabeth	800 0 0
1617	Do. of 300,000 merks, granted by Parliament to his Majesty, for his household expences during his residence in Scotland	1333 13 4
1618	Do. of L.4000, imposed on the boroughs, for charges of commissioners for plantation of churches	500 0 0
1622	Do. of L.400,000, granted by Parliament, for obtaining relief to those suffering for the Gospel	1333 13 11
1626	Do. the King, by order of the Lords of the Privy Council	5800 0 0
		<hr/> L.32408 17 2 $\frac{3}{4}$

TABLE OF ASSESSMENTS ON THE CITIZENS,

For the Stipends of the Ministers, and for the support of the Poor of the Town, by order of Head Courts;

FROM A.D. 1592 TO A.D. 1629.

		£. s. d.
1592	To Mr. Robert Howie and Mr. Peter Blackburn, ministers of the town	266 13 4
1594	... Mr. Peter Blackburn, minister	100 0 0
—	... For the support of the poor	200 0 0
1611	... Mr. John M'Birnie, one of the ministers of the town, for support of his family, after his death	665 13 4
1616	... Mr. William Forbes, one of the ministers of the town, yearly, by order of the head court	600 0 0
1621	For the support of the poor, assessed on the inhabitants by the head court	1000 0 0
1625	... the ministers' stipends	500 0 0
1627	... Dr. Forbes' stipend	800 0 0
—	... the poor	466 13 4
1628	... the ministers of the town, by order of the head court	1033 6 8
1629	... Dr. William Forbes, for stipend	800 0 0
—	... Mr. James Ross, minister, for stipend	800 0 0
		<hr/> L.7232 6 8

TABLE OF PRICES
OF SUNDRY ARTICLES OF PROVISIONS, AND OTHER COMMODITIES, &c.

IN ABERDEEN,

At different periods, from A. D. 1559 to A. D. 1633, in Ancient and Modern Scottish Money.

		SCOTTISH MONEY.	
		<i>Ancient.</i>	<i>Modern.</i>
1562	Loaf of flour, weighing 12 ounces	L.0 0 4	0 0 11
	Loaf of rye, weighing 16 ounces	0 0 4	0 0 11
	Pint of ale	0 0 5	0 1 2
	Boll of meal	2 0 0	5 10 10
	Boll of bear	1 16 0	4 19 9
	Loaf of flour, weighing 18 ounces	0 0 6	0 1 4
	Do. do. 12 ounces	0 0 4	0 0 11
	Loaf of rye, weighing 16 ounces	0 0 4	0 0 11
	Pint of ale	0 0 4	0 0 11
1563	Loaf of flour, weighing 18 ounces	0 0 4	0 0 11
	Do. do. 9 ounces	0 0 2	0 0 5
	Pint of ale	0 0 4	0 0 11
	Best double-soled shoes, for men	0 3 4	0 9 3
	Do. single-soled	0 2 8	0 7 4
	Women's double-soled do.	0 2 6	0 6 11
	Do. single-soled do.	0 2 0	0 5 6
	Best mutton bouk	0 10 0	1 7 8
	Second sort	0 8 0	1 2 2
1570	Scottish pint of wine	0 1 8	0 3 4
1576	Do. do.	0 2 8	0 5 10
1580	Admission dues of a Burgess of Guild	20 0 0	32 16 0
1581	Boll of wheat, with one peck to the boll	5 3 4	7 9 10
1593	Gallon of beer	0 6 0	0 9 0
	A gallon of ale	0 5 4	0 8 0
	Loaf, weighing 8 ounces	0 0 2	0 0 3
	Stone of candle,	0 2 6	0 3 9
	Stone of tallow, 16 lbs.	1 4 0	1 16 0
	Admission dues of a Burgess of Guild	40 0 0	60 0 0
1596	Loaf of wheat flour, weighing 12 ounces	0 0 8	0 1 0
	Boll of malt	9 6 8	14 0 0
	Boll of rye	8 0 0	12 0 0
	Boll of meal	7 0 0	10 10 0
	Boll of oats	4 0 0	6 0 0
	Price of boots	2 6 8	4 0 0
	Shoes, $\frac{3}{4}$ pair, single-soled	0 7 0	0 10 6
	Do. do. double-soled	0 12 0	0 18 0
	Boll of wheat	8 0 0	12 0 0

		SCOTTISH MONEY.					
		<i>Ancient.</i>			<i>Modern.</i>		
1598	Boll of wheat, raw	"	"	"	L.9	0	0
	Boll of wheat, dry	"	"	"	10	0	0
	Boll of bear, with a peck to the boll	"	"	"	6	13	4
	Boll of meal	"	"	"	6	13	4
1600	Boll of meal	"	"	"	8	0	0
1606	Boll of coals	"	"	"	1	4	0
	Bourdeaux wine, the pint	"	"	"	0	9	8
1608	French wine, the pint	"	"	"	0	10	0
	Boll of bear	"	"	"	8	0	0
1614	Boll of wheat	"	"	"	5	6	8
1615	Boll of bear	"	"	"	9	8	0
	Boll of wheat	"	"	"	10	0	0
1616	Boll of meal	"	"	"	8	0	0
1617	Admission dues of a Burgess of Guild	"	"	"	66	13	4
1629	Do. do.	"	"	"	133	6	8

~~~~~

*N.B.—In the year 1601, Ancient and Modern Scottish Money were about equal in value.*

## CHAPTER V.

## SECTION I.

*Commencement of the Civil Wars—Proceedings of the Covenanters at Aberdeen—Operations of their Armies—Montrose' victories—He sacks Aberdeen—The Marquis of Huntly—Distresses of the citizens during the war—Arrival of Charles II.—of the English Army—Deputies sent to the English Commissioners at Dalkeith—James VII.—Revolution—Various other matters at Aberdeen—Miscellaneous Occurrences.*

FROM A.D. 1633 TO A.D. 1707.

AFTER King Charles had returned to England, there sprung up, A.D. 1633. among the people of Scotland, those discontents and commotions, which were chiefly occasioned by attempts to introduce certain forms and ceremonies into the church, under the royal authority. These, joined to the struggle betwixt episcopacy and presbytery, involved the nation in anarchy and disorder, which led to a civil war, to the destruction of the king, and to the subversion of the constitution.

During the minority of King James, those lands and revenues which had belonged to the church were appropriated to certain powerful barons, who had supported him in the early part of his reign. But, as this patrimony had originally flowed from the liberality of the crown, it ought, upon every principle of law and justice, to have reverted to the king, when it became vacant, at the æra of the Reformation. Accordingly, after King James had been firmly established upon the throne, and had attained the age of majority, these church lands, then possessed by the impropiators, or *lords of erection*, as they were denominated, were annexed to the crown; and an act was passed, revoking all grants which had been made, in prejudice



A.D. 1633. thereof, during the king's minority.\* This act, however, was never enforced; and the nobles were allowed to retain the possessions which they had thus acquired.

These impropiators exercised their rights over these lands and possessions in a manner which was considered as extremely oppressive to the vassals under them, particularly in the arbitrary way of collecting and gathering the tithes. They would not even allow a competent or fixed stipend to the clergy out of the tithes which they had appropriated to themselves; but kept them in poverty, and dependent on their pleasure. In order to remedy these grievances, Charles passed an act, revoking all alienations, which had been made by himself or his predecessors, of the lands or other patrimonies of the crown, and particularly of impropriated tithes and benefices; but he was not possessed of sufficient resolution to carry this act into execution. At the same time, however, a commission was passed, under the great seal, appointing a certain number of noblemen and gentlemen, who were chiefly and immediately interested in these matters, as commissioners, for surrendering the feudal superiorities, and the impropriated tithes and benefices, to the king, on certain conditions; for affording relief to the proprietors of the lands, and for settling a suitable and fixed provision upon the clergy. The proceedings which followed upon the commission, under the authority of Charles,† were considered to be judicious, and the decrees arbitral which he pronounced met with considerable applause, as being beneficial to the landholders, to the clergy, and even to the crown. The nobles, however, finding by these acts that their influence was greatly diminished, were discontented, and repined at the power which had been acquired by the ecclesiastics, many of whom now enjoyed the favour of the king, and the highest offices under the crown.

Charles, naturally superstitious, was attached to the clergy; but he had been able to acquire the confidence of only the higher ranks  
among

---

\* Acts of Parliament, vol. ii. p. 431. 439.

† Acts of Parliament, Charles I. c. 9.—Submissions, &c. 498. et seq.

among them. The ministers, in general, were equally hostile with A.D. 1633. the nobility to the measures of the court, and to episcopal authority, which they considered as tyranny and an usurpation; and regarded equality among ecclesiastics to be a divine privilege, which no human law could alter or infringe. The prelates had obtained great influence in the state, and, by their means, the jurisdiction of presbyteries, synods, and other subordinate courts, had been, in a manner, abolished; and the General Assembly\* itself had not been summoned for several years. A new oath was arbitrarily imposed upon candidates for the ministerial office, by which they swore to observe the articles of Perth,† and to submit to the liturgy and canons of the church.

The book of canons for establishing the ecclesiastical jurisdiction 1635. had now been confirmed by the king; and the liturgy, which, with a few alterations, was almost a transcript from that of England, had been imposed on Scotland by royal authority. It had been introduced into some of the churches of Edinburgh, and other places, particularly in Aberdeen, where it was observed in Saint Nicholas church, and regarded as a proper form of public worship.‡ In Edinburgh, few indications of popular discontent appeared for some time, although the English service was well known in that place, and had been used for upwards of twenty years in the chapel royal of Holyroodhouse, which was then the parish church of the Canongate.

c c 2

Commutations,

---

\* The General Assembly met at Aberdeen on the 13th August, 1616, the Earl of Montrose being the Lord High Commissioner. It was chiefly occupied regarding the suppression of popery, and had been called by the king's letter.—[*Council Register*, vol. xlvii. p. 659. 668.]

† The following is the substance of the articles proposed by King James, and established by the General Assembly, which met at Perth in August, 1618:—

“1. That the eucharist should be received in a kneeling posture. 2. That it should be administered in private, in extreme sickness, according to the order prescribed by the church. 3. That baptism should be administered on the Sunday immediately following the birth; in private, if necessary. 4. That episcopal confirmation should be bestowed on youth. 5. That the descent of the Spirit, the birth, passion, resurrection, and ascension of Christ, and the mission of the Holy Spirit, should be commemorated, as annual festivals in the church.”—[*Life of John Forbes of Corse, Professor of Divinity, King's College, prefixed to his Works*, p. 11.]

‡ The book of canons was printed at Aberdeen, in the year 1636, by Edward Raban; and, in 1625, he printed the form of prayer for the church, with the psalms, set to music, which continued to be used while episcopacy prevailed.

A.D. 1637. Commotions, however, among the people are easily excited by any alarm. Being under the influence of the nobility and the clergy, they were firmly persuaded that these religious innovations were preparatory to the introduction of popery; and, a panic fear being raised, popular tumults and disorders broke out, in the most violent manner, among the lower ranks in Edinburgh, on an attempt being made to introduce the service into the cathedral church of St. Giles.

1638. Charles, being unacquainted with the genius of the people in Scotland, continued inflexible in his intentions of imposing that form of worship upon them: their prejudices, therefore, increased daily more and more, and a combination of almost the greater part of the kingdom was, in a short time, formed, to counteract his measures. To this combination the king had nothing to oppose but a proclamation, which was very little regarded, and wherever it was published it was encountered with a public protestation. Meanwhile, men of all ranks united together; and, that a regular system for their operations might be established, as well as to prevent irregularities, four *tables*, as they were called, were formed at Edinburgh. One of them consisted of the nobility, another of the gentry, and the other two of ministers and of burgesses respectively. From each of these *tables*, certain commissioners were appointed, who formed a general *table*, which revised their proceedings, and carried their acts and orders into execution. Among the first productions of the *tables*, was the celebrated COVENANT.\*

The

---

\* "The origin of the covenant may be traced to the beginning of the Reformation, when the Lords of the congregation, by their bond or covenant, first undertook the protection of the infant church. In the progress of the Reformation, it was twice renewed; but, on its establishment, neglected. During the administration of Arran, a negative confession of faith, which enumerated and renounced the corruptions of the Romish see, was framed, to obviate the imputations of popery, and, from the example of their sovereign, subscribed by his household, and his whole subjects; revived on the approach of the Spanish ambassador; and confirmed by a bond for the preservation of religion, the protection of his person, and their own defence. The name was adopted from the frequent covenants of Israel with God: the nature of the obligation was derived from the bonds of mutual defence and maintenance peculiar to the nation. The covenant was remembered and revered by the people, as an obligation to which their ancestors had repeatedly sworn; instituted during the purity, and renewed in the troubles, or on the triumph of the presbyterian faith. It was adopted by the English in the year 1643, and enforced by the civil and ecclesiastical authority of both kingdoms.—[*Knor.—Robertson's History of Scotland—Laing's History*, vol. i. p. 133.]



The covenant consisted of a renunciation of popery, and was expressed in those virulent terms which were most calculated to inflame the minds of the people. It was followed by a bond of union, that obliged the subscribers to resist all religious innovations, and to defend each other against every opposition whatever: and all this for the greater glory of God, and for the advantage of their king and country. The people of all ranks and conditions, without distinction of age or sex, flocked to the subscription of this famous deed, which few disapproved, and still fewer could venture to condemn.

The king could not fail to be greatly alarmed at this combination, and to be apprehensive of the consequences which would naturally arise from it. He, therefore, appointed the Marquis of Hamilton, a nobleman in whom he could confide, his high commissioner, with authority to treat with the covenanters; but although he agreed, in name of the king, to suspend the canons and the liturgy, yet his pacific propositions were disregarded. He failed in the negotiation, and returned to London. Hamilton, by order of the king, made another journey to Edinburgh, with new concessions; but was equally unsuccessful in his attempts to accomplish a reconciliation. Having returned to London, he was sent back by the king, with proposals to abolish the canons, the liturgy, and the high commission, and to suspend the articles of Perth. At the same time, authority was given to him to summon an assembly, and afterwards a parliament, where every grievance might be redressed. But, however ample and conciliating these concessions may have been considered, they were rejected by the covenanters, as being still short of their rising demands.

Charles being now aware of the advantages which the people had obtained over him by the covenant, resolved to counteract it by another of a similar nature on his part. With this view, he ordered a band of union to be framed, containing a renunciation of popery, and expressed in pretty much the same terms with the former, to which were annexed the same professions of duty and loyalty of the subscribers to the king. He, at the same time, by a royal proclamation, discharged the use of the service book, the book of canons, and  
high

A.D. 1638. high commission ;\* and rescinded all deeds whatever which had been made for establishing them. He also dispensed with the practice of the five articles of Perth, which had given so much offence, both to the presbyterian clergy, and to many of the people.

While these matters had been transacting in the south, the citizens of Aberdeen, who were firm supporters of their sovereign, appear to have viewed them with indifference, and to have acquiesced in all the measures which Charles had adopted. In these they were countenanced by the ministers of religion, who, from principles of loyalty and motives of prudence, were equally attached to the king. These circumstances were early communicated to his Majesty, who, in the warmest terms, expressed his thanks for the services which had been done to him, by a letter under his hand, addressed to the magistrates. † But it was not long before their loyalty was put to a severe trial; and they were ultimately compelled to submit to the violence of party.

On the 20th of July, the Earl of Montrose; Lord Coupar; the master of Forbes; Burnett of Leys; Graham of Murphy; Alexander Henderson, ‡ minister at Leuchars; David Dickson, minister at Irvine; and Mr. Andrew Cant, minister at Pitsligo, made their appearance

---

\* The courts of high commission were erected at St. Andrew's and Glasgow, of such transcendent jurisdiction, that every ecclesiastical court was subordinate; with such inquisitorial powers, that every individual might be cited, and examined on his conversation, conduct, and religious opinions; excommunicated, if impenitent; outlawed, if contumacious; imprisoned and fined, if obnoxious or guilty. The Archbishop and four assistants composed a quorum, whose sentence admitted of no appeal.—[*Laing's History*, vol. i. p. 58.]

† “CHARLES R.—Trustie and weil beloved, we greet yow weill. Hawing understood, frome the reverend Father in God the Bishop of Aberdeine, of the testimonie giuen by yow at this tyme of yor affectionn to our service, which is the more considerable in regard of the neglect of otheris, we give yow hearty thankis for the same, willing yow to continue as yow hawe begune; and be assured we will not be mmindfull theirof when any occasionn shall offer, whairby yow may find the effects of oure princely favor. Wee bid yow fairweill, from oure Court, at Whitehall, the nynt of Aprile, 1638.”

‡ On the 25th of December, 1639, Mr. Henderson was solicited, by the magistrates, to accept the charge of one of the ministers of the town, on the death of Dr. Alexander Ross; but this he appears to have declined.—[*Council Register*, vol. lii. p. 517.]

A.D. 1638.

pearance in the town, in the character of commissioners from the tables, and called upon the inhabitants to subscribe the new covenant and oath. Dr. Robert Barron, Dr. James Sibbald, and Dr. Alexander Ross, three of the established ministers; Dr. John Forbes, Professor of Divinity, and Dr. William Leslie, Principal, of the King's College; and Dr. Alexander Scrogie, minister of Old Aberdeen; had been fully prepared for their reception. "They demanded to know particularly of their reverend brethren by what authority they could require them, or their people, to subscribe this covenant, which had neither the authority of the king, the lords of the privy council, the national synod, nor of any other judicatory; and how they could attempt to enforce upon them, or their people, who were nowise subject to them, the interpretation of the articles of the *negative confession*. Besides, the covenant was very different from what had been subscribed by the late king, and by the nation, in the years 1580 and 1581." The reverend commissioners appear to have been equally well prepared with an answer, for they speedily rejoined, "That they had not come hither to usurp the authority of any civil or spiritual tribunal, or to enforce upon their reverend brethren, and the people committed to their charge, the subscription of the covenant, or the interpretation of the articles of that confession which is called negative; but were sent to represent to them, in all humility, the present state and condition of the church and the kingdom, calling for help at their hands; and, in brotherly love, to exhort and entreat that they would be pleased to contribute their best endeavours to extinguish the common *combustion*; which, by uniting with almost the whole church and kingdom in the covenant, they trusted they might lawfully do, without prejudice to the King's Majesty, or to any lawful judicatory, or to the negative confession of faith; since the sound interpretation and application thereof to the errors of the times can make no substantial change; and the *band* of mutual defence, by which they obliged themselves to defend the true religion and the King's Majesty's person and authority against all persons whatever, is joined at first with the confession of faith. That his Majesty's commissioner, although he had objected to the covenant, as an unlawful combination against authority, and being the main hindrance to their obtaining their desires, had accepted and was well pleased with their



A.D. 1638. their declaration, bearing, That they had solemnly sworn, to the utmost of their power, with their means and lives, to stand to the defence of the King's Majesty, as God's vicegerent, set over them for the maintenance of religion, and the administration of justice." This was only the prelude to much learned argument which passed between these reverend gentlemen on this important subject; and the whole was afterwards printed in a pamphlet at Aberdeen.\* On the Sunday subsequent to their arrival in the town, the reverend commissioners expressed a wish to be allowed to enforce their doctrines upon the people, by preaching in the church: but the established clergy were not inclined to indulge them. They were, therefore, contented with being allowed to harangue, in three several sermons on that day, to pretty numerous congregations, which assembled in the court of the Earl Marischal's lodgings, in the Castlestreet.† These sermons, however, seem to have made very little impression upon the minds of the people; and the endeavours of the learned commissioners to obtain their subscriptions to the covenant had as little effect.

Meanwhile, a letter had been transmitted from the commissioners of the table of burgesses to the magistrates and town council, requesting them to subscribe the confession of faith and the new covenant, which were presented to them by the *Lairds* of Dun, Morphie, Balmain, and Leys; but this they had declined, for the same reasons which had been assigned by the ministers of the town;‡ and the greatest part of the citizens approved of their conduct, and followed their example.

These proceedings having been communicated to the king, he addressed another letter to the magistrates,§ expressive of the high sense

---

\* The general demands of the reverend Doctors of Divinity and Ministers of the Gospel in Aberdeen, concerning the late covenant, with answers, &c. were printed in 1638, and reprinted there in the year 1663.

† Spalding, vol. i. p. 69.

‡ Council Register, vol. lii. p. 385, 389, et seq.

§ "CHARLES R.—Trustie and well beloved, we greet yow well. Having understood how due-tuffillie yow have carried yourself at this tyme, in what concerned the good of our service, and particularlie in hindring some stranger ministeris from preaching in any of your churches, Wee have taken notice thair of, and do give yow hartie thankis for the same, and do expect that, as your

sense which he entertained of their loyalty and great zeal in his cause; at the same time assuring them, that he should not be unmindful of it when an opportunity offered. This letter was accompanied with another, of the same purport, from the Marquis of Hamilton. Indeed, Charles acted up to his promise; for, in a few weeks after, he granted to the magistrates, council, and community, a new royal charter of the borough, confirming, in the most ample manner, all their ancient rights, privileges, and immunities. This may be regarded as the great charter of Aberdeen.\*

A.D. 1638.

The commissioners of the tables, having failed in the object of their mission to Aberdeen, took their departure; and matters continued in a tranquil state for some time. On the 5th of October, the Marquis of Huntly, accompanied with Sir Alexander Irvine of Drum, sheriff of the county, arrived in the town, as a deputation from the Marquis of Hamilton, his Majesty's high commissioner, and were received by the magistrates with every degree of respect. They presented to them, on behalf of the king, the confession of faith, and general band, marked by the clerk of the privy council, for maintaining the true religion, and for protecting the king's person. These were immediately signed by the magistrates and council; Dr. Robert Barron and Dr. James Sibbald, two of the ministers of the town; and by the greater part of the inhabitants, who had been convened for the purpose.† In order, however, to remove any undue impression that might have been made upon the minds of the people, the two ministers first signed these deeds under this qualification and protestation, "That they had agreed to the confession of faith, in as

D d

far

---

carriage hitherto hath bene good, so yow will continew; assuring yow that when any thing that may concerne your good shall occur, we will not be unmyndfull of the same. Wee bid yow fairweill, frome our court, at Oatlands, the last day of July, 1638."—[*Council Register*, vol. lii. p. 395.]

\* This is a voluminous deed, and confirms all the ancient charters of the borough, from the time of King William the Lion. It is dated at Oatlands, 9th September, 1638; was confirmed in parliament 17th November, 1641; and printed several years ago.

† The king's declaration, discharging the service book, book of canons, and high commission, and dispensing with the five articles of Perth, and indicting a General Assembly to be held at Glasgow, and a Parliament at Edinburgh, had been presented to the magistrates by the Marquis of Huntly, and proclaimed at Aberdeen on the 3d October.—[*Council Register*, vol. lii. p. 410.]

A.D. 1638. far as it condemned and abjured all popish errors, idolatry, and superstition, really and indeed repugnant to God's holy word; but that they did not understand the articles of Perth, and episcopal government, or any doctrine, rite, or ceremony, not repugnant to scripture, to the practice of the ancient or modern reformed and sound churches, or to the confession of the church of Scotland, as established by law, to be condemned or abjured by any thing which they had now done."\*

The citizens having become zealous supporters of the king, were trained to military exercise, and formed into a regular corps, under officers, who were appointed by the magistrates, for the defence of the town; but, owing to some irregularities among them, they were soon disbanded, and forty-two constables were nominated, for preserving peace and good order among the inhabitants.†

The General Assembly of the Church met at Glasgow on the 21st November, in consequence of a royal proclamation; that place being preferred to Aberdeen,‡ on account of the influence which the high commissioner possessed in this quarter. The assembly was attended by almost all the nobility and gentry of any consideration, either as elders or assessors, and by a great concourse of spectators from all parts of the kingdom. After a good deal of irregular and disorderly proceedings in this meeting, all the acts of the assembly which had passed since the ascension of King James to the throne of England were rescinded, and declared null and invalid; the whole bishops were degraded, or excommunicated; and thus episcopacy, the high commission, the articles of Perth, the canons, and the liturgy, were entirely abolished, as unlawful. At the same time, the covenant was ordered to be signed by every person, under the pain of excommunication.

Although this work of reform had been accomplished, consonant with the designs of the covenanters, yet they were fully sensible that these

---

\* Council Register, vol. lii. p. 413.

† Ibid. vol. lii. p. 421, et seq.

‡ No delegate was sent to this assembly from the town, in consequence of a representation from the citizens to the magistrates.—[*Council Register*, vol. lii. p. 428.]



these would, on no account, be admitted by the king, and that it would be absolutely necessary to support their arbitrary measures by military force. Their only resource was in themselves, and in their own vigour, and they prepared accordingly. On the 20th of February, this year, a meeting of the different estates of parliament was held at Edinburgh, when it was unanimously resolved to commence a defensive war, in order to oppose the king. A.D. 1639.

The covenanters having now acquired the ascendant in the nation, were zealously supported by the Earls of Argyle, Marischal, Rothes, Cassilis, Montrose, Lothian, and other noble lords, who had embraced the covenant; and, a civil war being inevitable, they speedily raised an army, which was put under the command of General Leslie, an officer of considerable experience and abilities. The whole country, except Aberdeen, and where the Marquis of Huntly, who still adhered to his sovereign, had any influence, was in the hands of the covenanters; and, in a very short time, was put in a posture of defence.

After this time, it was the misfortune of Aberdeen to become the theatre of the war in the north, and to experience many of the distresses and calamities incident to civil commotions. In this situation of affairs, the citizens in general still continued to support the measures of the king, and to promote his views, until they were overwhelmed by a numerous force. In the beginning of the year, they commenced their operations of putting the town in a state of defence, with ditches, and other works, on the north-east and south-west sides, and by fortifying it otherwise in the best manner. They took arms, and inrolled themselves to serve, under captains, and other officers, for the protection of the town. The provost and sixteen of the citizens were named as a council of war. The town being divided into four quarters, a captain, lieutenant, ensign, and three sergeants, were appointed, as officers of each quarter, and a military government was established.\* But they soon found that their zeal had engaged them in a very hopeless undertaking.

D d 2

The

---

\* Council Register, vol. lii. p. 445. 447. 450.

A.D. 1639. The Marquis of Huntly, who had, about this time, been appointed lord lieutenant of the northern district, which extended from the river Dee to Caithness, received a supply of arms, and other warlike stores, for the loyalists in that quarter, by a yacht and transport, which had arrived in the harbour of Aberdeen, from England. From these stores the magistrates were supplied with two hundred muskets, one hundred pikes, for arming the citizens, with the necessary ammunition; but such was the low state of the resources of the king, that the dean of guild and the treasurer were obliged to unite in a bond to his Lordship for the value of these appointments, which amounted to L.3685 4s.\* About the same time, the Marquis called for the services of all the loyalists, from the age of sixteen to sixty, and required them to join him, on the 25th March, properly armed, and furnished with fifteen days provisions. On the 22d, the inhabitants of Old Aberdeen and Spittal, to the number of 160 men, were mustered under the bishop; but they were, for the most part, unarmed, and unserviceable. Meanwhile, intelligence was brought to the town of the approach of the army of the covenanters, under the command of the Earl of Montrose, which disconcerted all the measures both of Huntly and of the magistrates. In this difficult juncture, the citizens found that their exertions, without any other means than their own internal resources, could be of very little service

---

The following Rules were ordered to be observed in the defence of the town :—

1. That all the ports shall be shut and locked every night.
2. That a nightly watch of twenty-four persons shall be appointed; each man to attend in person, under the penalty of L.5.
3. That the catbands of iron shall be provided, and fixed on every port, and other convenient places, where formerly fixed, and locks to be made for the same.
4. That the great ordnance shall be brought into the town, and placed in proper situations.
5. That no stranger shall be lodged within the town, till the magistrates be first acquainted.
6. That the baillies shall pass through the town, and see that every man, fit to bear arms, be provided with them, on his own expence.
7. That the whole expence shall be assessed on the inhabitants.

*Council Register, vol. lii. p. 445.*

\* Council Register, vol. lii. p. 451. The price of each musket, bandelier, and rest, was L.12; each pike, L.2 8s.; each lib. of powder, 18s.; one cwt. of matches, L.18; one cwt. of bullets, L.10 16s. Scottish money.

vice in the cause of their sovereign. They were unassisted by any succours from the king; they began to be divided among themselves; and the alarm of the approach of this army having seized them, many threw down their arms, deserted their standards, and left the place. The town was thus left in a defenceless state, and exposed to any body of men who might be inclined to occupy it.\* A.D. 1639.

The Earls of Montrose, Marischal, and other noblemen, with General Leslie, had, by this time, collected from the southern counties a considerable force, in order to overawe the north, and impose the covenant on the refractory inhabitants. They advanced to Aberdeen, and took possession of it on Saturday the 30th March, without meeting with any opposition.† Their army, consisting of 6000 horse and foot, was encamped in the links; and the Earl of Kinghorn was appointed governor of the town, having under his command a garrison of 1800 foot. The main body of the army was now augmented, by the arrival of 2000 horse and foot, which had been collected in the north, under Lord Fraser, the master of Forbes, and other barons. It did not, however, remain long in this position, for, in the afternoon of the same day, it broke up its encampment in the links, and immediately marched to Kintore, with a train of artillery, consisting of two cartons, or quarter guns, and twelve other pieces of ordnance. After halting there for two days, it proceeded to Inverury,

---

\* Council Register, vol. lii. p. 454.

On the 22d March, sixty young men of the town resolved to proceed, by sea, with their colours and arms, and join the king. They embarked on board a ship in the harbour on the 28th of the same month. Dr. Leslie, Principal of King's College; Drs. Barron, Sibbald, Guild, and Ross, ministers of the town; Sir Alexander Irvine of Drum; Menzies of Pitfoddels; and several others, accompanied them in the same ship.—[*Spalding*, vol. i. p. 120.]

† Before the army entered the town, the magistrates sent a deputation to the Earl of Montrose, with the following proposals:—1st. That no hostilities should be used against the town, as the citizens were disposed to give peaceable entry to the nobility and their army. 2d. That if any particular person gave offence, that it should be repaired privately, without reflecting on the public peace. 3. That the citizens should not be forced to receive more men than they could conveniently accommodate; and that such accommodation should be given to the nobility, while in the town, as in the power of the citizens. The inhabitants being assembled in a head court, were informed by the provost of the approach of the army and the nobility, in compliance with the orders of the late General Assembly; but that no injury or violence would be done to them.—[*Council Register*, vol. lii. p. 453.]



A.D. 1639. ury, where it encamped, with a view to be ready, on an emergency, to return to Aberdeen.

April 2. The conductors of this army had, previously to their leaving the town, issued their orders to the citizens, enjoining them to fill up, without delay, the trenches, which had been formed for the defence of the town, under the penalty of its being plundered and razed; but the execution of these orders they seem to have neglected. In a few days after, however, they were convened in the Gray Friars church, by order of the Earl of Kinghorn, in name of Montrose, and commanded immediately to destroy the temporary works of fortification; to dismount the cannon, which were to be delivered up to the Earl Marischal, along with the ammunition, for the service of the army; and to remove the *catbands* of the ports, under the pain of plundering the town. At the same time, the citizens were required to provide lodging and entertainment to the garrison in the town, at the rate of 6s. 8d. for each man, per day, for the space of eight days; and the magistrates were enjoined to pledge their assurance to the inhabitants that they should be fully indemnified. It was in vain for them to remonstrate; and, therefore, they submitted with sullen reluctance.\*

On the following day they were again assembled in the same place, by an order of the nobility, and required to subscribe the covenant, and articles annexed to it, as settled by the General Assembly which met at Glasgow, under the pain of being disarmed, and having their whole property confiscated.† At this they appear to have hesitated, and requested to be allowed a few days to consider the matter maturely, before they gave their answer. But an expedient was at hand to enforce the most speedy obedience to these injunctions, and it was immediately adopted.

April 6. The Earl of Montrose broke up his camp at Inverury, and marched directly to Aberdeen, where he arrived this day, and encamped his army again in the links, in order to compel the refractory

---

\* Council Register, vol. lii. p. 455.

† Ibid. vol. lii. p. 456.

tory citizens to submit to the measures of the covenanters. Being A.D. 1639. assembled on the 9th April, they were informed by the provost that the nobility had expressly commanded them immediately to fortify the blockhouse, for the defence of the town against foreign enemies; had enjoined them to subscribe the covenant; and to contribute, with the rest of the kingdom, for the expence of the war: and, as the contumacy of the citizens had occasioned the army to be marched to the town, they had determined to exact from them a contribution of 100,000 merks, with the whole charges attending it since its arrival; but from this imposition those who had previously signed the covenant were to be exempted. Having in vain murmured against these arbitrary orders and heavy imposition, they at length expressed their willingness to fortify the blockhouse, and the greater part of them declared their readiness to subscribe the covenant, and to contribute proportionally, in time coming, with the other boroughs, for the support of the army: but if the nobility were determined to exact the contribution which had been imposed upon them, they requested time to be allowed for removing themselves, their families, and property, from the town. The following day being observed as a solemn fast, there was preached in the church, by Mr. John Row of Perth, a sermon, which seems to have had considerable influence over the refractory part of the citizens; for, immediately after, almost the whole of them subscribed the covenant, that had occasioned so much distress, and been attended with such serious consequences to them.

Montrose now appointed four of the citizens, as commissioners April 10. from the town to the tables at Edinburgh, "to concur with them in such matters as might tend to the glory of God, the king's honour, and the maintenance of the true religion, laws, and liberties of the kingdom." They accordingly repaired to Edinburgh; but no sooner had they arrived, than a fine of 40,000 merks was imposed upon them by the nobility, who ordered them to be confined until they should either pay this money, or report an answer from the town, agreeing to pay it. The magistrates having declined to extricate them from this difficulty, they were committed to the prison of Edinburgh, by a warrant from the nobility and the commissioners of the other tables,

A.D. 1639. tables, and only liberated at the end of five weeks, at the intercession of the provost and magistrates of that city, upon their granting bond, with security, and giving their oaths, that they should return, within a specified time, under the penalty of paying the fine which had been so imposed.\*

The Earl of Montrose having accomplished his military enterprises in the north, without bloodshed, and brought the citizens of Aberdeen to due subjection, by obtaining their subscriptions to the covenant, prepared to march his army to the south. On the 12th April, General Leslie marched from Aberdeen, with the foot and the artillery; and, next day, Montrose followed, with the remainder of the army, carrying along with them the Marquis of Huntly, whom they had, by some means or other, decoyed into their power. He was conducted to Edinburgh, as a hostage, and imprisoned in the castle, where he remained for some time.

The seizure of Huntly, and his subsequent imprisonment, greatly disconcerted his adherents in the north. His second son, James, Viscount of Aboyne; the laird of Banff; and other loyalists, chiefly of the Gordons, now took arms, and assembled a body of men, whom they had collected from their numerous vassals and dependents in the north; and manifested hostile intentions towards the covenanters.

Meanwhile the Earls Marischal and Seaforth, and other barons, who were zealous supporters of the covenanters, had, by the 25th April, collected, in Aberdeen, about 3000 men, with a view to watch the motions of the loyalists, under the Viscount of Aboyne. The Earl Marischal assumed the title of governor of the town, and required the citizens to furnish a company of eighty men, completely armed, and under officers, for the detachment of the army which had been sent to Monymusk, under the command of Lord Fraser and the master of Forbes, against the laird of Banff and his partisans; but this request does not appear to have been readily complied

---

\* Council Register, vol. lii. p. 457. et seq. 467.



complied with. On the first of May, an order was transmitted to the magistrates from the table of the nobility, requiring them to furnish every fourth man, completely armed, to the *bound rod*, at Edinburgh, with ten days provisions, and a proportional number of horsemen to each company, armed with carabines, pistols, guns, or *jack* and *lance*; and, three days afterwards, six pieces of the cannon belonging to the town were also demanded by the Earl Marischal, for the service of the army at Montrose. The force of the covenanters being, at this time, weak and ineffective, these requisitions do not appear to have been much regarded, and were not complied with. Indeed, Marischal's army was soon dispersed.

The covenanters having appointed their committee to meet at Turreff upon the 20th of May, to sound the dispositions of the people in that district with regard to the covenant, Lord Fraser, the master of Forbes, and the other leaders of that party, assembled a body of 1200 men, on the 13th, to enforce obedience to their injunctions; but they were surprised by the laird of Banff, Haddo, and other barons, who attacked and dispersed them. The victors, elated with this success, advanced towards Aberdeen, and took possession of it without opposition. They now wreaked the vengeance of their fury upon the covenanters in the town, who experienced, during their stay, similar distresses to what the loyalists had formerly suffered from the army of Montrose.\* Finding nothing to oppose them in the course of their desultory excursions in the neighbourhood, they despoiled the houses and mansions of the gentlemen who had been forced to embrace the covenant, of every article of value which they could seize. They, however, remained only five days in the town, and were dismissed, with permission to plunder the covenanters wherever they inclined. No sooner, however, had they evacuated the town, than it was occupied by the Earl Marischal, with about 2000 horse and foot, which now, in their turn, harassed those inhabitants who were known to be loyalists. In the meantime, Montrose, having received intelligence of the proceedings of the army under the

E e

laird

---

\* Council Register, vol. lii. p. 463.

A.D. 1639. laird of Banff, and suspecting the fidelity of the citizens, accelerated his progress northward, in order to bring them under due subjection. On Saturday the 25th May he marched into the town, with about 4000 horse and foot, and thirteen field pieces; and encamped his army in the links. But the citizens having lost his confidence, and incurred his highest displeasure, had now to experience the weight of his authority. He next day broke up his camp, cantoned his troops in the town, and in Old Aberdeen, and, on Monday the 27th, imposed a contribution upon them of 10,000 merks,\* for defraying the expence of the army in the present expedition; which money was ordered to be paid on the morrow, by eleven o'clock, under the pain of the town's being given up to plunder. The citizens were, at the same time, disarmed, under the authority of the tables; the twelve pieces of ordnance, which had been purchased for the defence of the town, were ordered to be transported to Montrose and Dundee, for the purpose of opposing the English, who threatened a landing at these places; and the weapons, both defensive and offensive, belonging to the citizens, were delivered up to Sir Robert Graham of Murphy.†

But these rigorous exactions were not deemed to be sufficient atonement for the offences of the citizens. On pretence of a threatened invasion by the English from the sea, an order was issued by the table of the nobility, to block up the harbour, by sinking ships and other craft upon the bar. This was fortunately prevented, by a representation to the tables and the conductors of their army, from the principal barons of the county, and the citizens, pointing out the fatal consequences which would infallibly arise from such an operation, and the little benefit which their cause could derive from it.‡

Montrose,

---

\* It appears from the treasury accounts for 1639, that the whole money was paid by the treasurer.

† Council Register, vol. lii. p. 464, et seq.—Spalding, vol. i. p. 158.

‡ This representation being signed by many of the ancient barons of the county, a copy of it is annexed:—"We, nobillmen, barones, and gentric, of the schirrefdome of Aberdein, and inhabitantis of the burghes of Aberdeine, under subscriewand, humblie means and schaws unto yo<sup>r</sup> Lordschipes, my Lords generall, and remanent nobilitie of this present armie, lyand at Aberdeine; Whairas yo<sup>r</sup>



On the 6th June, the Viscount of Aboyne and the other loyalists landed from the transports, and published the king's proclamation,

r e 2

dated

|                                              |                     |                                        |
|----------------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Fraser                                       | Robert Forbes       | R. Farq <sup>s</sup> one of Invercauld |
| A. Banerman of Elsick                        | A. Forbes           | Robert Gardyne of Tillyfroskie         |
| Alex. Straquhan of Glenkindie                | J. Ramsay           | A. Forbes of Echt                      |
| Patrick Straquhan                            | J. Forbes of Leslie | W. Forbes of Tillieburie               |
| Jo. Forbes                                   | Tho. Forbes         | J. Meldrum                             |
| Duncan Forbes of Camphell                    | W. Forbes           | Ja. Skene, of that Ilk                 |
| Johne Leslie, yo <sup>2</sup> , of Pitkeppel | Th. Crombie         | Alex. Burnett of Leyis, younger        |
| Mr. Jo. Forbes                               | Monymusk            | T. Erskyne of                          |

\* Spalding, vol. i. p. 167.



A.D. 1639. dated at York, the 25th April, requiring all his subjects to lay down their arms, and return to their duty and allegiance to his Majesty ; at the same time, promising them a free pardon for all past offences. At this time, Aboyne, as his Majesty's lieutenant in the north, had in view to co-operate with the Marquis of Hamilton, who commanded the English fleet in the Forth, and was in expectation of receiving from him 3000 men ; but in this he was disappointed. Lewis Gordon, the Viscount's brother, however, having intelligence of his arrival, assembled a body of 1000 men, whom he had hastily collected in the north, and with these, and four field pieces, joined his brother at Aberdeen. This army was soon augmented to 4000 men, by levies of the barons and gentry, who had remained loyal to the king, and by many who had formerly embraced the covenant. On the 14th, the citizens were summoned to join this army, properly armed, under the pain of death. They were also required to provide free quarters for 400 foot and 200 horse, for the space of fifteen days ; or to pay, daily, in lieu thereof, 6s. for each foot soldier, and 15s. for each horseman. They so far acquiesced in this, by agreeing to contribute 1000 dollars, by way of loan to his Lordship, for the service of his army.\* Aboyne, now finding himself in a posture to contend with the covenanters, marched from the town towards Stonehaven, with an intention of enforcing obedience to the king's proclamation ; but intelligence of his approach being brought to Montrose and Marischal, then at Dunnottar, they prepared to meet him, with a body of 2000 horse and foot, which they had hastily collected. With this force they opposed him at Megray hill ; prevented his further progress ; and, after some fighting, obliged him to retreat, in great disorder, towards Aberdeen. They pursued his flying army for some time, and, on the 18th, they advanced to the bridge of Dee, which, they found, had been strongly fortified with four field pieces, and occupied by four companies of foot, from the town. Being unable to force the bridge, Montrose next day made a feint to cross the river with his cavalry, a little above it, which induced Aboyne to draw off his horse and part of the foot, in order to prevent his passage of the river. The defence

---

\* Council Register, vol. lii. p. 470, et seq.

fence of the bridge being, by these means, weakened, it was carried by the covenanters; who took the four field pieces, and killed four of the citizens who defended it. Aboyne and his troops having immediately fled in different directions, Montrose closely pursued, and put many of them to the sword. A.D. 1639.

The town now became an easy conquest to the victors, who entered it without resistance, and threatened to set it on fire. The citizens, struck with consternation and dismay, and dreading the enemy's severity, which they had experienced on former occasions, fled from the town, with their wives and families, uncertain where to go. It was given up to pillage; but the magistrates interceded with the leaders of the army, and agreed to pay a contribution of 7000 merks,\* to be distributed among the soldiers, to prevent further ravages. Before, however, the treaty was concluded, many acts of plunder had been committed; and forty-eight of the principal citizens, who had been concerned in the action, were bound with cords, and committed to prison.† In a few days afterwards, a letter was transmitted from the king, addressed to the magistrates,‡ communicating the agreeable intelligence of a negociation for peace having taken place at Berwick. Montrose thereupon evacuated the town with his army, and marched southwards; by which means the citizens were relieved, for a while, from the hardships and calamities of war.

Thomas Gray and Patrick Chalmers were sent, as delegates June 28. from the town, to Charles, then at Berwick, to represent to him the many distresses and losses which the citizens had suffered, on his Majesty's account, from the armies of the covenanters, and the great

---

\* The money was paid to the Earl Marischal; and, being borrowed by the treasurer from individuals, the citizens agreed to be assessed for its repayment.—[*Council Register*, vol. lii. p. 479.]

† *Council Register*, vol. lii. p. 477.—*Gordon's History*, vol. ii. p. 303.

‡ “CHARLES R.—Trusty and well beloved, Wee greete you well. Haveing fully understood of yo<sup>r</sup> constant affeccōn to o<sup>r</sup> service, and sufferings for the same, wee give you harty thanks; and, as heretofore wee have written, wee will not be unmyndfull thereof: but o<sup>r</sup> subjects who had offended us having, at this tyme, given us sattisfacōn, accepting of that which propounded unto them, wee have thought it fitt to acquaint you therewith, to the end you doe not proceed in any thing touching hostility, but that you setle yo<sup>r</sup> town in a peaceable way: And so wee bid you hartily farewell, from o<sup>r</sup> Roiall Camp, at the Bricks, the 18th of July, 1639.”

A.D. 1639. great load of public debt\* which the town had incurred during the war, in expectation of receiving some compensation for these injuries. The king received them graciously, and gave them his assurance that he should not be unmindful of the sufferings of the citizens; at the same time promising, that, as soon as it was in his power, reparation should be made to them for their losses.† But, indeed, at this time, Charles himself was in a very distressed situation, and surrounded by so many difficulties, that whatever promises of relief he may have made to his loyal subjects, he was unable to fulfil.

From the sudden pacification which the king had concluded at Berwick, no good was likely to arise. It had been extorted by present necessity, and, therefore, was of short duration. Indeed, neither party seemed to be serious in the observance of it, and there were only wanting an opportunity to break it, and a slight pretence for the renewal of hostilities. The situation of his affairs, and the want of money, obliged him to disband his army; but the covenanters had concluded, that, as the treaty was inconsiderate, so it was probable that they should soon have occasion to have recourse to arms. They were, therefore, so provident, in disbanding their troops, as to enjoin the officers to hold themselves prepared, on a moment's notice, when their services were required. Many of these were their countrymen, who had served in the armies on the continent, and resigned their rank and emoluments, in order to espouse the cause of the covenanters,

---

\* The town's public debt, incurred by the war, was, at Michaelmas, 1639, as follows:—

| To the funds appropriated to benevolent purposes, under the management of the Magistrates and Council, paid to the armies of the Covenanters, to relieve the citizens | £.    | s. | d. |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|----|----|
| ... money borrowed by the Treasurer from private individuals, and paid away by him in the same manner                                                                 | 5966  | 13 | 4  |
| ... the Dean of Guild, advanced by him                                                                                                                                | 11267 | 13 | 4  |
| ... the Treasurer, super-expended by him                                                                                                                              | 2012  | 3  | 0  |
|                                                                                                                                                                       | 707   | 18 | 11 |

---

L.19954 8 7

*Council Register, vol. lii. p. 491.*

† *Council Register, vol. lii. p. 480. 486.*



ters, and serve in their armies. A lieutenant-colonel and twelve other officers were allotted to the town and county of Aberdeen, and retained on pay, at the rate of L.501 6s. 8d. monthly,\* from the 1st of December to the spring of the ensuing year. A.D. 1639.

Meanwhile the covenanters preserved the ascendancy which they had acquired over the nation; and some circumstances soon occurred which occasioned the war to be renewed, with advantages on their side, and disadvantages on that of the king: but, during the remainder of the autumn, and through the winter, matters continued in a tolerable state of tranquillity.

In the beginning of this year the covenanters began to make the most ample preparations for the ensuing contest. A committee of estates was appointed to superintend the operations of war; and a tenth of yearly income, arising from rents, trade, or otherwise, was imposed, as an assessment, for the defence of the country. But, as parliament had not given its sanction to this last measure, a general bond was framed, by the committee of the tables, and ordered to be signed by the people, agreeing to pay this assessment, and to relieve the conductors of the warlike preparations, of their engagements. It was transmitted to the magistrates, with instructions, not only for its due execution, but for levying the tax from the citizens without delay. In the same manner, a requisition was made, soon after, by the Earl Marischal, and other leaders of the covenanters, of all silver and gold work, and coined money, belonging to the citizens, in order that these might be delivered to the receiver-general, and coined for the public service. For this plate *sufficient security* was to be given to the owners, 1640.

---

\* The Names of the Officers who were paid by the town and county.

| Monthly Pay.                   |       |    |      | Monthly Pay.          |   |   |          |
|--------------------------------|-------|----|------|-----------------------|---|---|----------|
| Lieutenant-Colonel Geo. Forbes | L.133 | 6  | 8    | Ensign Francis Forbes | - | - | L.24 0 0 |
| Captain George M'Kenzie        | -     | 66 | 13 4 | Serjeant John Mathie  | - | - | 12 0 0   |
| — George Forbes                | -     | 66 | 13 4 | — John Lithgow        | - | - | 12 0 0   |
| — John Forbes                  | -     | 66 | 13 4 | — John Cowper         | - | - | 12 0 0   |
| Lieutenant Robert Lumsden      | -     | 30 | 0 0  | — John Minuter        | - | - | 12 0 0   |
| — William Forbes               | -     | 30 | 0 0  | — Alex. Lovell        | - | - | 12 0 0   |
| Ensign James Cruickshank       | -     | 24 | 0 0  |                       |   |   |          |

*Council Register, vol. lii. p. 515.*

A.D. 1640. owners, at the rate of L.3 for each ounce of the silver, and L.— for each ounce of the gold; to be paid to the owners within a year. These impositions were ordered to be enforced, under the pain of confiscation of moveables.\*

May 28. At this time, a muster being made of the citizens fit to bear arms, they were found to amount only to 260; but many loyalists had left the town. They were required to march, under arms, to the bridge of Dee, where they were to meet the Earl Marischal and Major-General Robert Monro, with a body of men consisting of 800 horse and foot, on its march for defence of the town. No sooner had they taken possession of it, than the magistratss were compelled to accede to certain articles, which were proposed by Monro, for supplying his troops with bread, beer, shoes, linen, and camp necessaries; and for furnishing arms, and other military stores, for the public service; all at the expense of the community. In the month of August a company of 120 foot was raised by the town, and put under the command of Robert Keith, brother of the Earl Marischal.† This quota of men marched to join the expedition which had been sent into England, under General Leslie.

While Monro remained in the town, his army ravaged and pillaged the country, and very much oppressed all those who were suspected of favouring the king; but, upon the 12th of September, he marched southward; by which means the citizens were relieved from those distresses to which they had been exposed while his army was quartered upon them. It was, however, soon replaced by a small body of men, under the command of Lord Sinclair, who was in the service of the covenanters. He was more moderate in his exactions than Monro, for he agreed to pay the inhabitants for their lodging and entertainment; but his troops made up for this, by pillaging the country in the neighbourhood, without respect or discrimination of persons. This body of men remained as a garrison in the town till February, 1642, when it marched for Ireland.‡

In

---

\* Council Register, vol. lii. p. 526. 538. 547.

† Ibid. vol. lii. p. 548. 568.

‡ Council Register, vol. lii. p. 588. 709.

During these civil contentions, such was the situation of Aberdeen. At one time, the inhabitants were subjected to the calamities of war; at another, they were exposed to the arbitrary exactions and impositions of the conductors of contending armies, until these had become intolerable: but, in the unfortunate state of the nation, every consideration was sacrificed to accomplish the purposes of faction. The people were unprotected by any civil power, or any regular government, and knew no authority but that which domineered over them at the time. A.D. 1610.

After the treaty which had been concluded at Rippon between the English and Scottish commissioners, the affairs of the kingdom remained, for some time, in a state of tranquillity. Charles repaired to Edinburgh, in the summer of this year, in order to establish the peace of Scotland, for which he was extremely anxious, and conferred honours and bestowed preferments, indiscriminately, on those who had been most zealous in his service, and on those who had been the most strenuous opposers of his measures. By these means he lost his best friends, without making any favourable impression upon the minds of his enemies; and the concessions which he had granted to Scotland did not tend much to his advantage, nor did these conciliate the minds of the people. 1641.

About this time, the civil war broke out in England; and, although the army of the parliament of that kingdom had suffered defeats, yet the affairs of the king made no favourable progress, and soon became in a manner hopeless.\* The convention of estates of Scotland 1643.  
F f
having

---

\* In the interval between the two campaigns, when the king was at Oxford, he addressed the magistrates of Aberdeen by the following letter:—

“CHARLES R.—Trustie and weil beloved, we greet you well. Since nothing on earth can be moir dear unto us than the preservation of the affection of our people, and, amongst them, non more than of these our native kingdom, which, as the long and uninterrupted government of us and our predecessors over them doth give us just reason, in a mair near and speciall maner, to challenge from them; so may they justly expect a particular tenderness from us, in everie thing which may contribute to their happiness. Bot knowing what industrie is used by scattering seditious pamphlets, and employing private agents, and instruments, to give bad impressions of us and our proceedings, and, under pretence of a danger to religion and government, to corrupt y<sup>e</sup> fidelitie and affection, and to engage them in an unjust quarrel against us their king; we cannot, theirfoir, bot endeavour to



- A.D. 1643. having resolved to support the common cause, by forming an union with the parliament of England, a negociation was speedily concluded, and a new covenant was framed at Edinburgh, in the name of the people of Scotland, England, and Ireland, which was called "THE SOLEMN LEAGUE AND COVENANT." By this deed the subscribers became bound for the mutual defence of each other against all who might oppose them, to extirpate popery, abolish prelacy, and to preserve the reformed religion, as established by the Church of Scotland, "according to the word of God, and the example of the purest churches." In order to carry on the war with vigour, an army of 20,000 men was voted by the convention of estates, and sent into England, under the command of General Leslie, who had been advanced by Charles to the dignity of Earl of Leven. Hostilities com-
1644. menced in England betwixt the royal army and that of the parliament, in different quarters; and orders were issued, commanding the military services of every person, from the age of sixteen to sixty years, fit to bear arms. Certain sums of money and quotas of men were apportioned upon the several counties and the royal boroughs, for augmenting the armies, and for the defence of the country. Aberdeen fitted out, as its quota, for the army in England, a company of 130 men, at the expence of the treasury, properly equipped,

---

remove those jealousies, and secure their fears frome all possibilitie of any hazard of either of these from us. We have, theirfoir, thought fitt to require you to call togidder your fellow burgesses, and such others as have any dependance upon you, and, in our names, shew them our willingness to give all assurance they can desire, or we possibly grant, (if more can be given than already is,) of preserving inviolablie all those graces and favours which we have of lait granted to that our kingdome; and that we faithfully promise never to go to the contrair of any thing their established, either in the ecclesiastical or civil government, bot that we will inviolablie keep the same, according to the laws of that our kingdome; and we wish God to blis our proceedings and posteritie. We hope this will give so full satisfaction to all who sall hear of this our solemn protestation, that no such persons as studie division, or goe about to weaken the confidence betwixt us and our people, and justlie deserve the name and punishment of incendiaries, sall be sheltred from the hand of justice; and all such others as sall endeavour peace and unity, and obedience to us and our laws, may expect that protection and increase of favour from us which their fidelitie deserves. So, expecting y<sup>e</sup> care heirof, we bid you heartlie farewell, from our Court at Oxford, the 21st April, 1643."

*"To our trustie and well beloved, the Provost, Baillies, and Counsell of our town of Aberdeen."*

*Council Register, vol. lii. p. 794.*

equipped, under Captain John Strachan;\* the citizens were trained to arms; and the town was put in a posture of defence. A D. 1644.

The Marquis of Huntly and Sir John Gordon of Haddo, who had invariably adhered to the interest of Charles, made considerable preparations for commencing hostilities against the covenanters, by collecting and arming a body of men from their vassals and dependents. Among the first of their warlike enterprises, they dispatched about 100 horse to the town, where they seized, and carried off as their prisoners, Patrick Leslie, the provost; Robert Farquhar and Alexander Jaffray, two of the baillies; and John Jaffray, dean of guild; who were disaffected to their cause. They were detained for some time at Strathbogie, and afterwards at Auchindown; but, not long after, they effected their liberty, and returned to Aberdeen. Soon after, the Marquis having notified to the magistrates his intention of occupying the town with his army, which was now on its march, a deputation was sent to his Lordship, at Inverury, to ascertain his designs towards the citizens. He received the deputies on good terms, and pledged his word that none of them should be pressed in their consciences, nor molested or troubled in their persons or property. In the meantime, however, he advanced a detachment of his army, consisting of 300 horse, and the same number of foot, with which he took possession of the town, on the 28th March; and, in a few days after, the remainder of his army followed. He required the citizens immediately to accede to one of the three following propositions:—1st. That the roll of the assessment of taxes should be delivered up to him, along with payment of the money which had been assessed. 2d. That a contribution should be made by the citizens for the support of his army. 3d. That his army in the town, at Inverury, and in other places, should have free quarters.† In vain did they remonstrate against these requisitions, as being incon-

F f 2

sistent

---

\* The company had three colours of taffety, and was provided with 221 lib. of gunpowder and ammunition; bread to the value of L.212. Each man received a suit of clothes, two shirts, with a musket and sword. The daily pay of each soldier was 6s.; and every twelve were allowed a baggage horse. Their enlisting money was ten dollars each.—[*Guildry Accounts.*]

† Council Register, vol. lii. p. 829. vol. liii. p. 1201.

A.D. 1644. sistent with his Lordship's promises; and equally in vain did they implore him to abate his demands, on account of their inability to comply with them. They were obliged to submit, but not without expressing their indignant feelings on the occasion. He disarmed them without delay, and seized four pieces of ordnance which were found on board a ship in the harbour. Afterwards, he published a manifesto, complaining of the severity of the committee of estates, particularly with regard to the orders which they had issued for seizing his person and property; at the same time, declaring the motives which had actuated him to take arms against them. On intelligence, however, being brought of the approach of the army of the covenanters, he took his departure upon the 30th of April, and retreated to Auchindown.

May 2. No sooner had Huntly evacuated the town, than it was occupied by the army of the covenanters, under the command of the Marquis of Argyle, the Earl Marischal, and other noblemen. This army consisted of 6000 horse and foot, and was composed of Highlanders, Lowlanders, and Irish, bearing on their standards the inscription "*For the Covenant, Religion, the Crown, and Kingdom.*" They lived at free quarters upon the citizens; who were, at the same time, compelled to submit to a contribution imposed upon them by the committee of estates, for the charge of supplies to the northern army, the Scottish army in England, and the Irish army; and very heavy sums were exacted from them for these and other such purposes. Argyle's army, however, did not remain long in the town; for, in a few days afterwards, it marched northward, leaving only a garrison behind, under the command of the Earl of Kinghorn, who was appointed governor a second time. The greater part of the citizens had, by this time, embraced the covenant, from principle, or acceded to it by compulsion; and they had now become as warm supporters of it as they had formerly been zealous in the service of the king.

Montrose, who, at the commencement of these civil commotions, had been greatly attached to the interest of the covenanters, now devoted himself to the service of the king, and was rewarded with the dignity of Marquis. After some unsuccessful attempts, he put himself at the head of 1500 Irish auxiliaries, who had landed on the north-



north-west coast of Scotland ; and, although very ill appointed, had A.D. 1644. penetrated into Athol, where they were joined by the highlanders, and by many others, who had deserted the cause of the covenanters. This small army, being now augmented to about 3000 men, Montrose hastened to immediate action, as Argyle was behind him in pursuit of the Irish. He advanced to Perth, where Lord Elcho was stationed, with an army of 6600 horse and foot ; and, although inferior in number, and totally unprovided with horse, obtained a complete victory over him. The Marquis, being joined by many loyalists, accelerated his progress to Aberdeen, in order to rouse Huntly and the Gordons, who had often manifested their zeal for the king, but had been suppressed by the superior forces of the covenanters, and prevented from making any great exertions in his favour. On intelligence of his approach, Lord Burleigh, who was in the command at Aberdeen, prepared to meet him, with an army of 3000 horse and foot, which he had collected there.

Montrose, on his advance northwards, forded the Dee at Mills of Drum, about ten miles above the town, on Wednesday the 11th September, and encamped at Crathes. On the same day Lord Burleigh marched out his army to the two-mile cross, on the west of the town, where he remained till the following day, having returned in the evening, without meeting the enemy. Montrose, immediately after, encamped his army there, and next morning dispatched a flag of truce, accompanied by a drummer, with a letter to the magistrates, summoning them to surrender the town to his arms. After some consultation with Lord Burleigh, Viscount Frendraught, and the other chiefs of that party, they dismissed the flag, with an answer, refusing to surrender ; but while the drummer was returning, he was unfortunately killed in the Green, either by accident or by design.\* This, so contrary to the acknowledged principles of warfare, could not fail to exasperate Montrose. He immediately put his troops in motion, to attack the enemy, and take the town by assault. Burleigh marched, about 11 o'clock before noon, along with a considerable

---

\* The magistrates presented to the drummer a piece of money of L.6 13s. 4d. which is stated in the treasury accounts of that year.

A.D. 1644. considerable body of the citizens, in arms, in order to give him battle ;  
 Sept. 12. but a severe storm of wind and rain coming on from the south-west, disconcerted his troops, by beating in their front. The conflict commenced on the road, near the Crabestone, and on the irregular ground betwixt it and the Justice Mills ; and continued about two hours. It was sanguinary, and the fate of the town was soon decided. Montrose, by means of the superior manœuvring of his cavalry, and the advantages of his position, obtained a complete victory over the covenanters, who precipitately fled in different directions, leaving many of their friends dead and wounded in the field. He closely pursued the vanquished to the gates of the town, which he entered, and renewed the slaughter, putting to the sword, without distinction, every person whom he found upon the streets. The unfortunate citizens, who had so often experienced his oppressions for their loyalty to the king, were now exposed to unrestrained massacre and pillage by the rapacious Irish. The prison was broke open, and the prisoners set at liberty ; the houses of the inhabitants were no protection from the rage of the infuriate soldiers, who first stripped, and then put to death many of the people ; the women durst not bewail their husbands or their fathers, nor inter the dead, who remained unburied on the streets for three days, till the Irish departed. In this disastrous affair, upwards of 160 of the citizens fell in the battle, or were killed in the pursuit, and within the town. Among these were several respectable citizens, whose loss was deeply lamented by their friends and connections for many years afterwards ; and the event was long commemorated by the succeeding generations.\*

The

---

\* This memorable event is recorded in the Council Register in the following terms:—" It is to be remembered, but never without regret, the great and heavy prejudice and loss which this borough did sustain by the cruel and bloody fight and conflict which was fought, twixt the Crabstone and the Justice Mills, upon the 13th of September instant, twixt 11 before noon and 1 afternoon, occasioned by the approaching of James, Marquis of Montrose, with three regiments of Irish, and of Athol men, Strathern men, and some others, their adherents. The said James, Marquis of Montrose, having required the town to be delivered up to him, and having sent a commissioner, with a drum, for that effect ; the magistrates and council, having consulted and advised with Robert Burleigh ; James, Viscount of Frendraught ; Andrew, Lord Fraser ; diverse barons of this shire ; and with the commander of the Fife regiment, which was then in arms ; with the inhabitants of this town, and with the foresaid noblemen, and diverse ready to oppose and resist the



The Marquis of Montrose, however, did not find ultimately any A.D. 1644. important advantage resulting from this decisive victory. On the subsequent day the main body of his army marched to Kintore: and the remainder of his troops, consisting of the Irish auxiliaries, took their departure on the 16th, their route being towards the north. No sooner had this army evacuated the town, than it was occupied by an army, under the Marquis of Argyle, who had, by this time, been in pursuit of Montrose. Lord Burleigh, and the shattered remains of his army, joined Argyle, and their united force consisted of about 6000 horse and foot. They lived, as usual, at free quarters, and despoiled the town and country in the neighbourhood of every thing that was valuable. Argyle, soon afterwards, marched in pursuit of Montrose, but he does not appear to have made any extraordinary exertions to overtake him. After a variety of movements by these armies during the remainder of the campaign, unnecessary to be detailed, they at length met, in the beginning of February of the 1645. subsequent year, near Inverlochy, on the west coast, where Argyle was defeated. Many of his troops now joined Montrose, who returned to the neighbourhood of Aberdeen, and encamped his army in the fields, about the beginning of March, overawing the town, harassing the citizens for supplies,\* and pillaging and wasting the country in the course of his desultory excursions. He afterwards took and plundered Dundee, but was at length vanquished by General

---

enemy in coming; did refuse to render the town, and dismissed the commissioner and drum, with answer to the said demand: but, as they were passing by the Fife regiment, the drummer was unhappily killed by some one or other of the horsemen of our parties, as was thought. Whereupon the fight presently began; and, after two hours hot service, &c. thereby, the said Fife regiment, with our baili townsmen, and others of the shire, being there for the present overpowered by the number of the enemies, were forced to take the retreat, whereby many of the Fife regiment were killed: and of our townsmen were slain, that day, Mr. Mathew Lumsden, baillie; Thomas Duck, master of kirk work; Robert Leslie, master of hospital; Mr. Alexander and Robert Reid, advocates; Andrew and Thomas Burnetts, merchants; with many more, to the number near of eighty score: for the enemy, entering the town immediately, did kill all old and young whom they found on the streets, among whom were two of our town officers, called Gilbert Breck and Patrick Kerr. They broke up the prison house door, set all warders and prisoners to liberty, entered in very many houses, and plundered them, killing such men as they found within."—[*Council Register*, vol. lili. p. 7.]

\* Council Register, vol. lili. p. 43. 1614.



A.D. 1645. neral Leslie, who surprised his army at Philiphaugh, in the Forest, where it was completely routed by the cavalry. Montrose, finding the affairs of the king in the most deplorable state, retired abroad, where he remained for several years. After the death of the unfortunate King Charles, he returned to Scotland, with a few adherents to the royal cause; made an attempt to assist Charles II. but was baffled in all his efforts to re-establish monarchy; and betrayed to General Leslie, by a friend, to whose fidelity he had entrusted himself. He was carried to Edinburgh, where he was tried, condemned, and suffered on the scaffold, after having submitted to many indignities. One of his dismembered limbs, according to the manner of the times, was conveyed to Aberdeen, and exposed on a pinnacle over the Justice port.

Meanwhile the citizens continued to endure many hardships and multiplied distresses, from the several armies of the covenanters, who lived upon them at free quarters,\* and to submit to their impositions till they were almost impoverished. It was in vain to represent their situation to the conductors of these armies; for, from them, they had no redress to expect, far less any regular government to look up to for protection.

1646. In the month of April, this year, Major-General Middleton arrived in the town, to take the command of the army of the covenanters, where he remained till the month of May. He marched northward, and left Lieutenant-Colonel Hew Montgomery† with four troops

---

\* In the end of the year 1645, the Earl of Lothian's regiment marched into the town, and was lodged at free quarters. Five hundred recruits joined it; and an allowance of 12s. weekly was ordered to be advanced by the town to each man. In 1646, January 3d, Viscount Kenmure and Colonel Steuart's regiments, of 800 foot, arrived; on the 23d, six troops of horse and one of dragoons, under Colonel Robert Montgomery, consisting of 420 horsemen; next day, 160 dragoons; on the 4th February, twelve dragoons, with ammunition, from the south; on the 20th February, the regiment of artillery arrived in the town, where it remained, at free quarters, till 26th April: on 27th April, 1646, four troops of horse, 200 strong, arrived, under the command of Colonel Hew Montgomery; on the 13th June, six troops, 200 strong, under Colonel Blair.—[*Council Register*, vol. liii. p. 1271.]

† Colonel Montgomery, afterwards Earl of Eglintoun. He was among the number of those peers who joined against the king, on the commencement of the civil war, in the year 1638. He had

troops of horse, consisting of 240 in number, and two regiments of foot, of 700 men, to defend the town. In the absence of Middleton, the Marquis of Huntly, and his son James, now Earl of Aboyne, had collected an army at Inverury, composed of 1500 foot, and 500 horse, with which they formed a design of surprising Montgomery. On their approach, they drew up their army on the north-west side of the town, and prepared to take it by assault. The garrison bravely defended for sometime, and repulsed two several attacks; but some houses having taken fire, and the Marquis's troops being led on by Aboyne, and pressing with vigour, Montgomery was defeated and put to flight, with great loss.\* In this action, Colonel William Forbes, and several barons of the county, who were in Montgomery's army, were killed, and about 350 taken prisoners. The town fell an easy conquest to the Marquis, who gave it up to the ravages of his army. The houses and shops were, of course, plundered by the victors of every thing valuable. This was the last battle fought at Aberdeen during the civil wars; and although it was a gallant enterprise on the part of Huntly, yet was of very little service in the cause of his sovereign. He himself was soon after seized by the covenanters, carried to Edinburgh, and fell a victim, along with many others, to the severity of the covenanters, for his steady adherence to the king.

Charles, finding that his affairs were now become hopeless, surrendered himself to the Scottish army, and was detained as a prisoner. Not long afterwards, he was delivered up to the English commissioners, in consequence of a transaction regarding certain arrears due to the army by the parliament of England, and which

G g

were

---

the command of a regiment sent to Ireland in the year 1642, towards suppressing the rebellion of the native Irish; and was personally engaged in the battle of Long Marstonmuir, in 1643, in the service of the parliament of England, where he behaved with great courage; and, in 1660, concurred in the restoration of King Charles II.—[*Cranford's Peerage*, p. 130.]

\* A gentleman of the author's acquaintance, in digging the foundation of a building in his garden, on the north side of the Schoolhill, about thirty years ago, found a great quantity of human bones, among which were fourteen or sixteen skulls. On some of these were observed long yellow hair, neatly plaited, and bound with a woollen fillet, in the form of a queue. As this was near the place of Huntly's attack, it is more than probable that these were the remains of some of those who had fallen in the battle.

A.D. 1646. were compromised at L.400,000; to be paid to the Scottish parliamentary leaders. The character of Charles, his sufferings, and tragical death, being events well known in history, it is unnecessary to relate them.

1650. The indignation of the Scots at the execution of their sovereign, and the ignominious treatment which their commissioners had experienced from the English, incited them to acknowledge his son Charles, who, at this time, was residing on the continent, whither he had repaired some years prior to this event. The Scottish parliament passed an ordinance, expressing their disapprobation of the violent measures which had been pursued against his father, and proclaiming Charles II. king of Great Britain. At the same time, however, it was declared, that, before being admitted to the exercise of the royal authority, he should be obliged to subscribe the covenant, and be subjected to certain other conditions, to which he ultimately acceded. Commissioners from Scotland were accordingly dispatched to conduct him to Britain, one of whom was Alexander Jaffray,\* late provost of Aberdeen. Charles embarked in a Dutch fleet, and landed at Speymouth, attended by a female friend,† and by a few nobility and other loyalists, who had shared with him in his misfortunes, and accompanied him abroad. On the 23d June, a letter‡ was transmitted from the commissioners to the magistrates of Aberdeen,

---

\* Council Register, vol. liii. p. 268.

† The lady who accompanied King Charles was Miss Lucy Barlow, *alias* Walters, of Pembroke-shire; the mother of James, Duke of Buccleugh and Monmouth, the eldest and favourite natural son of Charles. He was born at Rotterdam, 9th April, 1649, and suffered on the scaffold 15th July, 1685, on the pretence of rebellion against his uncle, James VII.—[*Crawford's Officers of State*, p. 340. 353.—*Harleian Miscellany*, vol. iv. p. 165.]

‡ “Worshipful and good friends—We have directed these to let you know, that the king is safely arrived, and intends, if God permits, to be at Aberdeen on Thursday, at night; Therefore ye will take such care to provide such lodgings for him and for the commissioners, and for the train, as may be best had on so short advertisement. And we beseech you, let nothing be wanting which may testify your affection to the native king, who has fully assured all the desires of his people. No farther, but we are your very assured friends.

“Cassillis.”

“J. Brodie.”

“J. Smith.”

“Lothiane.”

“George Wynram.”

“Al. Jaffray.”

“SPEYMOUTH, 23d June, 1650.”

*Council Register*, vol. liii. p. 268.



A.D. 1650.

deen, signifying the king's intention of repairing to the town, and requesting them to provide lodgings for him and his attendants. On his arrival, he was received, with every mark of distinction, by Robert Farquhar of Mounie, the provost, who delivered to him the silver keys of the town, and by the citizens, with every demonstration of welcome and respect. Among the first objects that presented themselves to his view was the quarter of his faithful servant Montrose, which was still allowed to hang over the Justice port,\* in the vicinity of his lodgings. Charles and his attendants, during their stay in the town, were hospitably entertained, at the expense of the community;† and nothing was neglected by the magistrates that could contribute to his comfort, or show their attention to his Majesty. On this occasion, he conferred the honour of knighthood upon the provost, and also upon Patrick Leslie of Eden, who had some years previously filled the office. After remaining in the town for upwards of a week, the king proceeded to Edinburgh, in order to enter upon his administration. His subsequent coronation at Scone, defeat at Worcester by Oliver Cromwell, and retiring abroad for some years, have been frequently detailed, and are sufficiently known.

After the battle of Worcester, Cromwell pursued his advantages, 1651. and speedily entered Scotland, with the English army. He took possession of Edinburgh and Leith, without resistance; and soon  
g g 2
accomplished

---

\* It would seem to have been removed from the pinnacle at the time Charles was in the town, and buried in the church-yard. After the restoration, it was taken up, by order of the magistrates, and put into a coffin, covered with crimson velvet. After lying in state, for some time, in the town-house, it was delivered to Henry Graham, son to the laird of Murphie, for interment in the burial place of the family.—[*Council Register*, vol. liv. p. 248.]

† The expense incurred on this occasion was as follows:—

|                                                                                           | £. | s. | d.          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|----|-------------|
| To baker, brewer, and butcher; and for wine, spiceries, and coals, to the king's lodgings | -  | -  | 941 16 2    |
| ... incidental charges                                                                    | -  | -  | 41 0 2      |
| ... gold and silver ribands, and other articles, to the Maiden, &c.                       | -  | -  | 129 0 4     |
|                                                                                           |    |    | £.1111 16 8 |

*Treasury and Gildry Accounts, for 1650.*

A.D. 1651. accomplished the reduction of the whole kingdom, which submitted to his arms, without loss, and almost without opposition. The army under the command of Lieutenant-General Monk, after the surrender of Stirling Castle, took Dundee by assault, and massacred the inhabitants. In the course of its progress northward, Aberdeen surrendered to it at discretion, on Sunday the 7th of September, when the English took possession of the town. On Wednesday morning, however, part of the army retreated southward, leaving behind a strong garrison. Although the English leaders treated the citizens with civility, yet they immediately imposed upon them a contribution of L.12,000; and they conceived that they were justified in so doing, by reason that the town had fitted out a quota of men for the Scottish army, after it was known that the English had dissipated the committee of estates at Elliot, made General Leslie prisoner, and taken Dundee. A representation, however, being made to General Monk,\* by a deputation of the citizens, of the various hardships which they had suffered during the civil wars, and of their distresses, occasioned by the pestilence, which had lately infested the town, he was pleased to suspend the exaction of the money. The English troops remained at Aberdeen for several years;† were, for some time, under the command of Major-General Deane, afterwards of Colonel Fairfax; and appear to have lived on good terms with the inhabitants, whom they treated with becoming propriety; occasionally exercising many acts of benevolence towards them. During their occupation of the town, considerable fortifications were constructed upon the Castlehill, with materials which were transported from the ruinous fabric of the bishop's palace in Old Aberdeen;

---

\* General Monk transmitted an order to the magistrates, dated Dundee, 7th October, 1651, mentioning that he had been informed, "that sundry persons in the nation had of late ensnared men's consciences, by enforcing on them oaths and covenants; and notifying, that whatever person shall tender any oath or covenant to any one, or whoever shall take or enter into such, without orders from the commonwealth of England, both the *tenders* and *takers* shall be holden as enemies to it, and dealt with accordingly."—[*Council Register*, vol. liii. p. 332.]

† In May, 1652, Colonel Richard Ashfield was appointed High Sheriff of the county, by the commissioners of the parliament of the commonwealth.—[*Records of the Sheriff Court*.]

deen ; part of which works still remains, as an enclosure for the pre- A.D. 1651.  
sent barracks. \*

Meanwhile, the parliament of England had appointed Oliver St. 1652.  
John, Richard Deane, and four others, as commissioners, for settling the civil affairs of the kingdom, with instructions regarding Cromwell's scheme of incorporating England, Scotland, and Ireland, into one commonwealth. These commissioners having assembled at Dalkeith, the magistrates and council of Aberdeen delegated George Cullen and Thomas Mortimer, two of the citizens, as representatives of the borough, to attend them ; and to state the heavy losses which had been suffered by the town and community during the late civil war, the great load of public debt† which had been incurred, and the heavy burden of the military quartered upon the citizens. They met with a very favourable reception from these commissioners, and acceded to the scheme of Oliver Cromwell, for an union of Scotland and England into one commonwealth ; so that the same government which had been established, without a king, or house of lords, might be extended to the people of Scotland. They also engaged for the citizens conducting themselves peaceably, and yielding due obedience to the authority of the parliament, and commonwealth of England. The English commissioners granted a protection‡ to the town,

---

\* In 1659, when the English army left the town, Colonel Fairfax, the commanding officer, signified to the magistrates, that he had been ordered by General Monk to demolish the works of fortification built upon the Castlehill, at an expence of L.800 ; but, out of respect to the town, he was inclined to sell them for L.50, which offer was rejected. These works appear to have been left entire by the English ; for they are so laid down on the map of the town, constructed by Mr. James Gordon, minister of Rothiemay, in the year 1661.

† The public debt of the town at this time amounted to 927,120 merks, Scottish money ; which is equal to L.51,506 sterling.—[*Council Register*, vol. liii. p. 380.]

‡ “ By ye Cõmission<sup>r</sup> of ye Parliam̃t of the Cõmon Wealth of England, for ordering and managing affairs in Scotland.

“ Whereas the burroughs of Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, and Montross, Brechin, Forfar, Aberbrothock, ——— Perth, and Bamf, have, by their deputies, declared their acceptance of the tender of the Parliam<sup>t</sup> of the Cõmon Wealth of England to bee one Cõmon Wealth w<sup>t</sup> England, and have alsoe engaged themselves to ane peaceable ord<sup>r</sup>, and yield obedience unto the authority of the Parliam<sup>t</sup> of the Cõmon Wealth of England, exercised in Scotland ; Wee doe declare, that the above said boroughs are taken into the speciall protection of the Parliam<sup>t</sup> of the Cõmon Wealth of



A.D. 1652. town, and a charter, restoring the civil government to its lawful administrators. Under the authority of these deeds, the burgesses of guild assembled upon the 17th March, and, by a majority of votes, elected the ordinary number of magistrates and counsellors, who were to continue in office until the usual day of the annual election, in September ensuing.\* The town was now put under proper civil authority, and tranquillity established, after anarchy and disorder had prevailed for nearly twenty years.

1660. In this year, King Charles was restored to the throne of his ancestors, without bloodshed or opposition. Intelligence of this event being brought to Aberdeen, the citizens, who had been so long depressed by those factions which had torn the nation, manifested their joy at the happy event. A thanksgiving sermon was preached on Sunday; after which, the magistrates accompanied the citizens in a military procession through the streets, expressing their exultations in psalmody. The remainder of the day was devoted to drinking wine at the cross, as had been customary. An address, congratulating his Majesty on his restoration, was prepared by the magistrates, and presented to him by Mr. Irvine of Drum, who was deputed for that purpose. In the beginning of the subsequent year, Gilbert Gray, the provost,

---

England; and doe, therefore, strictly require all officers and souldiers whatsoever, as all other persons that shall have occasion to travaile in the saids burroughs, or converse with any of the inhabitants of the same, that they offer noe violence or injury unto the persons or goods of any of the inhabitants of the same, nor take any thing from them upon any pretence, without satisfaction given to the owners, and with their consent, as they will answere the contrary. And wee doe further declare, That the saids burroughs and the inhabitants thereof, in their compliance and deportment, as aforesaid, shall not only have all due encouragem<sup>2</sup> from those in authoritie under the Parliam<sup>2</sup> in Scotland, but receive, from time to time, such testimony of respect and favour toward them, by way of benefitt to the inhabitants, in their liberties, trade, and other concernm<sup>2</sup>, as shall consist with the present state of affaires here, and the Parliam<sup>2</sup> declaration in that behalfe; and as may testifie to them the good acceptance which the Parliam<sup>2</sup> hath of the manifestation of their affectione, and endeavo<sup>2</sup> for promoting the said union. Given und<sup>2</sup> o<sup>2</sup> hands, at Dalkeith, the xxvii day of February, 1651-2.

“ H. VANE.

“ G. FENWICK.

“ OL: ST. JOHN.

“ RI: DEANE.

“ ROBERT TICHBORNE.

“ RI: SALWEY.”

\* Council Register, vol. liii. p. 344, 345, et seq.

provost, was delegated by the council to repair to London, with another address, to the same purport; as well as to negotiate other affairs of the town. He was introduced to the king, to whom he presented the address, and was graciously received. But the advantages resulting to the community from this mission were by no means equivalent to the great expence attending it, which was no less than L.500 sterling; nor had the provost the least distinguishing mark conferred upon him by his sovereign.\* A.D. 1660.

In the month of May, this year, a daring outrage was committed upon the property of the town, by the Earl of Mar, and his confederates, which, although not attended with any serious consequences to the citizens, manifested the relaxed state of the government at the period, and evinced, on the part of this chieftain, a total disregard and violation of the law. The proprietors of the salmon fishings of the Cruives, upon the river Don, had thought proper to make certain operations upon the Cruive dyke, which is carried across the river, about two miles from the town. The Earl, and some other proprietors of the upper part of Don, took the alarm, and, conceiving that the works which had been constructed were attended with injury to their salmon fishings, formed a combination to redress this supposed grievance at their own hands, according to the custom of feudal times. They assembled their vassals and dependents at Hallforest, near Kintore, to the number of 2500, horse and foot, and were advancing, in hostile array, in order to demolish the Cruive dyke. On intelligence of this being brought to the town, the provost and two other citizens were sent, as a deputation, to remonstrate with these hostile barons against their despotic proceedings, and to tender to them a most ample indemnification. But this was not their object. They disregarded the remonstrance, proceeded to the work of destruction without delay; and, by the strength of their numbers, speedily accomplished the overthrow of the Cruive dyke. As the citizens did not think it prudent to oppose them, or, perhaps, were not properly prepared for their reception, they were allowed to return homeward, without molestation. Of this outrage, the magistrates 1664.

---

\* Council Register, vol. liv. p. 173. 223. 246.

A.D. 1664. gistrates and the proprietors of these fishings complained to the civil court; but whether the injury which had been done was ever redressed, we have not been informed.\*

1666. About this time, the close union and confederacy which had so long subsisted between Britain and Holland was interrupted by certain disputes between the English and the Dutch, concerning interferences in commerce. Hostilities having commenced, and an invasion being threatened, Aberdeen was put in a posture of defence; and, in order to repel the enemy, the blockhouse was repaired, and mounted with four guns. At the same time, six pieces of cannon were purchased from the Earl Marischal, for the protection of the town, for which the treasurer paid his Lordship 1800 merks.†

1668. The national militia being about this time established, a company of 120 men was apportioned to the town by the commissioners of the county. These were clothed with red plaiding, and armed with muskets and swords, at the expence of the guildry. The commissions to the officers were signed by the magistrates, and the daily pay of the company was assessed upon the citizens.‡

1685. On the demise of King Charles, his brother, James, Duke of York and Albany, ascended the throne of Britain. During his residence in Scotland, he was extremely anxious to obtain popularity, and was not unsuccessful. When he first arrived in Scotland, in 1681, the magistrates did not neglect to pay him adulation, by an address, which was transmitted to him by a deputation of their number, and met with a gracious reception.§ His ascension to the throne was proclaimed with the usual ceremonies, and the citizens, while they expressed their grief for the death of Charles, did not neglect to testify their joy at the succession of their new sovereign. The Sunday subsequent to the news of this event being brought to the town, was appointed for humiliation and for public mourning. The churches and cross were hung with black, and the bells were muffled, and tolled during the interval of sermons. On Monday there were unbounded

\* Council Register, vol. liv. p. 521, et seq.

† Ibid. vol. liv. p. 711.

‡ Council Register, vol. lv. p. 136. 148. 165. 191.

§ Ibid. vol. lvi. p. 651.



bounded demonstrations of joy, by all ranks of the people, at the accession of King James. The day was ushered in by bonfires on the streets, and ringing the bells; the cross was decorated with tapestry, and the citizens assembled in arms, and proceeded to the church, where they heard sermon, after which they accompanied the magistrates in a procession through the streets, manifesting in psalmody their joy on the happy occasion. The proclamation being read at the cross, the healths of the king and queen, and of the queen dowager, were drank in wine by Sir George Skene, the provost; on which all the people assembled cried "*God save the King James VII.*" A concert of instrumental\* music was performed on the cross, and the day was concluded with volleys of musketry.† Soon after, the magistrates presented a loyal address to his Majesty, which was graciously received. His birth-day was afterwards celebrated with unusual demonstrations of joy; the citizens were entertained with a concert of music; an abundance of wine was provided by the magistrates, and distributed among the people, according to the usual custom; and three rounds were fired from the great guns upon the blockhouse and Castlehill, to add to the honour of the occasion.

Although civil contentions in the nations had terminated, and tranquillity and good order been so far restored, yet the arbitrary measures of King James soon became manifest and intolerable to the people, had well nigh proved fatal to their civil and religious liberties, and gone far to overthrow the constitution. No sooner had James ascended the throne, than he openly avowed the tenets of popery, and favoured those who adhered to them. He sent his agents to the Pope, in order that he might make his concessions to the church of Rome; and that popery, with all its tyranny and superstition, might be revived, as the established religion of the nation. These, joined with his other arbitrary and ill-concerted measures, soon alienated the affections of the people, and paved the way for that necessary and important revolution in the government of the kingdom, which,

II h

happily

---

\* According to tradition, the modern favourite air of "*God save the King*" was first introduced, in the course of the concert, on this occasion.

† Council Register, vol. lvii. p. 157.

A.D. 1688. happily for Britain, was fully accomplished. By those means James having forfeited his crown, William, Prince of Orange, who had some years previously espoused the Princess Mary, his eldest daughter, was invited by all ranks to take upon him the government of the kingdoms, and, soon after, gratified their most ardent wishes by landing at Torbay, with an army of Dutch. His cause was soon embraced by the nobility and gentry; and the army of England did not long hesitate to join his standard. James, having now lost the confidence of the nation, the state of his affairs became desperate. He made considerable exertions, for some time, to regain his crown; but was baffled in all his attempts to re-establish himself upon the throne, and ultimately withdrew to France, where he resided during the remainder of his days.

The Prince of Orange found it no difficult matter to accomplish the great work which he had begun. The representatives of the people of England placed him in the administration of the kingdoms; the convention of estates of Scotland concurred in the measure; and the crown was settled upon him and his consort, now styled King William and Queen Mary.

The greater part of the citizens of Aberdeen had no objection to this change of government, although many of them, who supported episcopacy, still continued to adhere to the cause of King James, and to approve of his measures. On the news being brought to the town of the revolution being established, the magistrates and the greater part of the citizens did not neglect to manifest their joy. An address, congratulating the king and queen on their accession to the throne, being prepared by the magistrates, Dr. George Garden, one of the ministers, was deputed, by the council, to repair to London, for the purpose of presenting it to their Majesties, which he accordingly did, and was graciously received at court.\*

For some time after the revolution, the highlanders, under Major-General Buchan, who favoured the views of King James, infested the town

---

\* Council Register, vol. lvii. p. 302.—In the year 1693 Dr. Garden was deprived of his ministerial charge, for not qualifying to the king and queen.

town and neighbourhood in pretty numerous bodies. They wasted the lands and plundered the property of all those who supported the new government; and, as many of the people were not thoroughly reconciled to it, a strong military force was now stationed in the town, for the purpose of suppressing the insurgents, and overawing those who were disaffected. The army under Major-General M'Kay, after the battle of Killiecrankie, occupied the town, and remained in it for some considerable time; and, although the soldiers did not live at free quarters, yet they were supplied with provisions and necessaries by the inhabitants, for which little was received in return; while considerable damage was occasioned in the neighbourhood, both by horse and foot of the army, for which no reparation was ever made.\*

A.D. 1689.

On the demise of King William, who survived his consort a few years, the crown devolved, by the act of settlement, upon Queen Anne, the only surviving daughter of King James, her accession to the throne having been proclaimed at Aberdeen, upon the 23d March. In the early part of her reign, the treaty of union betwixt England and Scotland, which had often been attempted, was again proposed by the parliaments of both kingdoms, and, after many obstacles and difficulties had been surmounted, was at length brought to a happy issue. By these means the people of Scotland were at once put in possession of rights and privileges more valuable to them than those which their ancestors had formerly enjoyed.

1702.  
March 8.

By one of the articles of this treaty, it was settled, that Aberdeen should, jointly with the boroughs of Arbroath, Montrose, Brechin, and Bervie, be entitled to send one representative to the parliament of the united kingdoms of Great Britain. Aberdeen being declared to be the first presiding borough, the election took place there in the month of October, 1708; and John Gordon, who had filled the office of provost of Aberdeen for the two preceding years, was unanimously elected member of parliament for that district of boroughs. This honourable appointment, however, does not appear to have been, at that period,

1707.

---

\* Council Register, vol. lvii. p. 324.



A.D. 1707. of so much consideration as in modern times ; for it was conferred upon him without solicitation, and without his incurring any expence : and, after his election, he was presented with L.50 sterling by the treasurer, for the expense of his journey to London. He repaired to Parliament with his *charger*, equipped, according to the manner of the time, with a velvet mantle, and other splendid furniture. He attended his duty in parliament for two years, and was allowed, by the town council, no less than L.425 7s. 2d. sterling, including the L.50 which had been previously advanced, for defraying his personal expenses in two several parliaments.\*

---

\* Council Register, vol. lviii. p. 127. 157. 208.

## MISCELLANEOUS OCCURRENCES IN ABERDEEN.

FROM THE YEAR 1633 TO 1704.

- 1633 A severe storm of wind and snow, on the 7th February, demolished the imperial crown of King's College, and injured many houses in the town
- 1634 Famine prevailed in Caithness and Orkney, and supplies given by the town to the inhabitants of these places
- 1635 The citizens prosecuted, at the instance of the Earl of Kinnoul, for concealed money
- 1637 A transport, having on board ninety-two soldiers, was driven out of the harbour by an overflowing of the river Dee, and wrecked, the whole persons on board having perished
- 1640 The General Assembly met at Aberdeen, and a guard of the citizens was appointed to attend it
- 1644 Alexander Irvine of Kingcausie was barbarously slain by William Forbes, natural son to John Forbes of Leslie, near the town; for which the assassin received 2000 merks from the Committee of Estates
- 1645 The pestilence broke out at Peterhead
- 1647 — Ritchie de Kincardine crematus fuit ob venerem nefandam cum æqua
- The pestilence raged in the town, and carried off 1600 of the inhabitants
- The town serjeants ordered to be clothed in red coats
- 1649 Gold and silver work, made within the town, ordered, by the magistrates and council, to be assayed by William Anderson, goldsmith, and stamped with the town's mark
- 1654 Order from his Highness the Lord Protector, for the union of the two kingdoms, proclaimed at Aberdeen
- 1657 A great fire in the town extinguished by the English soldiers, for which they received twenty rix-dollars from the magistrates
- 1658 Richard Cromwell proclaimed, at Aberdeen, Protector, on the death of his father, Oliver Cromwell
- 1659 A watch of forty men appointed, for the protection of the town in the night time
- 1660 The prison broken by James, Viscount Frendraught, who was confined in it for debt
- Dr. James Leslie was appointed physician to the poor of the town, with an annual salary of L.60
- 1661 A plan of the town made by Mr. James Gordon, minister of Rothiemay, for which he received a silver cup, weighing 20 ounces, and a silk gown to his wife. The plan ordered to be sent to Holland, to be engraved
- 1664 The pestilence raging in Holland, measures were adopted by the magistrates to prevent infection of the inhabitants
- 1665 An English frigate put into the harbour, to be repaired
- 1666 Wainscott or oaken coffins prohibited to be used at interments, either in the church or church-yard
- 1667 Dr. John Menzies, Professor of Divinity in Marischal College, held a public disputation with Mr. Dempster, *alias* Lagane, a Jesuit. The whole ordered to be printed, at the expense of the Dean of Guild

- 1669 An accidental fire broke out, in the head of the Shiprow, in the night of the      October, by which several houses were burnt to the ground, and the inhabitants suffered considerable loss
- 1670 Funerals in the town ordered to take place betwixt sun-rising and sun-setting, to prevent accidents. Two persons dangerously wounded at a funeral, betwixt 10 and 11 o'clock at night
- 1672 Thomas Mercer, late Dean of Guild, fined in L.500 Scots, for defaming the town's ministers, and imprisoned until he made a palinode
- 1674 William Ogilvie permitted to set up a cooking shop in the town
- Alex. Bruce, baker in Edinburgh, allowed to supply the inhabitants with bread, and admitted burgess, on account of the bakers of the town being deficient in baking good bread
- 1681 Two Students of Divinity, from Poland, supported at the expence of the town during their studies, for promoting the Protestant religion
- 1687 The funeral of the *Laird* of Drum, in Drum's Aisle, attended by the magistrates and the citizens, under arms
- 1689 The Pope tried, condemned, and burnt in effigy, at the cross of Aberdeen, 11th January, by the Students of the Marischal College, in number 99
- 1698 Three of the town's serjeants deprived of their offices, imprisoned, put in the stocks, and fed on bread and water, for some time, and afterwards banished from the town, with their wives and families, for ever, for allowing James Gordon, brother of *Arradoul*, to escape from prison, he being committed for the murder of George Leith of Overhall
- A nunnery of six young women, four priests, and a Popish school, kept by two women, for young children, established at Aberdeen
- 1703 The public bells of the town ordered to be rung at eight, in place of nine o'clock at night



## CHAPTER V.

## SECTION II.

*Political affairs of the borough—Public debt contracted during the civil wars, &c.—Opposition by the Burgesses to Assessments—Ecclesiastical authority—Quakers—Character and habits of the people, &c.—Trade, and progress of Manufactures, &c.—Post Office—Progress of Printing—George Jamieson, painter, &c.—Pestilence and famine—Various domestic matters—Table of Mortmains for benevolent purposes—of Assessments, &c.—of Births—and of Prices of Provisions, &c.*

FROM A.D. 1633 TO A.D. 1707.

IN reviewing the public transactions during the former part of this æra, nothing has been discovered but the violence of party spirit, and the fury of civil contention, excited by religious bigotry ; a continual struggle maintained between the crown and the people ; and a total disregard to civil government. From these topics we shall turn, in order to give some account of those domestic matters which occurred ; to examine the progress of trade and manufactures, and useful arts ; and to offer some sketches of the manners and habits of the people.

The constitution of Aberdeen having been completely established in the end of the sixteenth century, its political affairs continued to be conducted for several years, undisturbed by any dissensions among the leading men of the council, or by any struggles between them and the burgesses.

In the year 1623, an act of council was passed, ordering the members to be dressed in gowns when they attended public meetings, and when they repaired to the church on Sundays and preaching

preaching days, as was the practice in other royal boroughs. In puritanical times, it was ordained, that the council should commence and close its proceedings with prayer; and the provost, or the chief magistrate present, was ordered to officiate in that religious observance.\*

In the year 1634, there commenced one of those grievances of which the people had so much cause to complain, namely, the extension of the royal prerogative, by Charles I. and his son James VII. and their exercise of authority in the administration of the royal boroughs of Scotland. About that period, the civil affairs of the town were under the direction of Patrick Leslie of Eden, who filled the office of chief magistrate, and had represented the borough in parliament. At Michaelmas, this year, Mr. Leslie had been duly elected provost, in the usual manner; but, having incurred the king's displeasure by his conduct in parliament, it was his Majesty's pleasure that he should be removed from the office, and Sir Paul Menzies elected in his place.† This having been communicated to the baillies and council by a royal mandate, Mr. Leslie resigned, and Sir Paul Menzies was appointed chief magistrate. Their ready and obsequious compliance with the royal commands was very gratifying to the king; and, in a subsequent letter, he was pleased to testify his approbation, and signify his thanks to the council.‡ It would

---

\* Council Register, vol. li. p. 39. vol. liii. p. 129.

† "CHARLES R.—Trusty and well beloved, we greet you well. Whereas we are informed of some seditious convocations practised amongst you, coming, as we hear, especially from the election you have lately made of one Patrick Leslie for your provost, whom we were informed to have wronged your trust in his carriage at our late parliament, and, therefore, to have deserved no such charge. And, in regard we have always formerly found you forward for our service, and accordingly have dispensed our favour to you in what might concern your liberties and privileges; now, being careful of that which may concern our service, and the peace and weal of that our city, in redressing of the abuses past, and preventing the like inconvenience, it is our pleasure, for that effect, that you remove the said Patrick Leslie from being your provost, and, in his place, we wish you to make choice of Sir Paull Menzies, who was formerly in that charge. So, not doubting of the performance of this our pleasure, we bid you farewell, from our Court at Whitehall, the 10th December, 1634."—[*Council Register*, vol. lii. p. 198.]

‡ "CHARLES R.—Trusty and well beloved, we greet you well. Understanding of your willing and ready obedience to our letter, in removing your late provost, and accepting Sir Paull Menzies,

would appear, however, that this arbitrary measure had been extremely displeasing to the party in the council who supported Mr. Leslie ; and perhaps he would have been chosen to the office of provost, at the subsequent election, had not the king adopted measures to prevent it. On the usual day fixed for the nomination of the new council, the bishop of Aberdeen and the sheriff of the county attended, and required that the election should be postponed till his Majesty's pleasure should be known. A motion for an adjournment having been made, was, however, negatived by a majority of nine to seven ; but the council, being thus overawed by the bishop, thought proper to suspend, at this time, all further proceedings.\* Meanwhile, a mandate was transmitted from the Lord High Chancellor to the council, requiring them neither to elect Mr. Leslie to the office of provost, nor to suffer him to have a vote in the council. The king afterwards issued his letters, commanding them to meet on Wednesday the 7th October, and to proceed to the election in the usual manner. At this meeting Mr. Leslie appeared in the character of a counsellor, and tendered his vote, which, according to the directions of the Lord Chancellor, was rejected. The majority being, by these means, unfavourable to Mr. Leslie, Robert Johnston was chosen provost.†

This election, however, does not appear to have coincided altogether with the king's intentions, and, therefore, became the subject of a question before the lords of the privy council, at his command. On the 20th January, 1636, they found, " that the election had not been made in that fair and peaceable manner which became dutiful  
I i
and

---

knight, in that charge ; we do therein acknowledge your good affection to our service, and give you hearty thanks for the same, assuring you that hereafter we will be sparing to give any such farther order, unless there be some special occasion moving us thereunto. As for your signature sent unto us for ratifying your liberties, we have at this time returned the same to our advocate, to be conferred with the last ratification of our late royal father, and if nothing be materially disconform, or if any things be added by you of new, whereby we, nor none of our good subjects, are prejudiced, that he forthwith cause expedite the same, under our cachet and seals ; otherwise, to return it, docketed by him, unto us, that it may pass our signature here, and be returned back for that purpose. We bid you farewell, from our Court at Whythall, the twelfth day of February, 1635."—[*Council Register*, vol. lii. p. 203.]

\* Council Register, vol. 52. p. 217, et seq.

† Ibid. vol. lii. p. 219, et seq.



and good subjects; and, as it had tended to foster factions and heart-burnings among the citizens, to the disturbance of the public peace and tranquillity of the town;" they, according to his Majesty's letter, *nominated* and *elected* Alexander Jaffray to be provost for the present year. At the same time, they continued the other members of council in their respective offices, they always being *trafficking* merchants, and actual inhabitants of the town; but such persons as did not fall under this description were ordered to be removed. In due compliance with this injunction, the council elected another counsellor, in place of Gilbert Menzies of Pitfoddels, who was a baron, and representative in parliament for the county.\* On the usual day of election, in September, 1638, there was presented to the council his Majesty's letter, testifying his approbation of their conduct in the present situation of public affairs, and recommending to them a continuance of it.† A motion was thereupon made, that no person should be voted into the council who had subscribed the COVENANT, or been inimical to the measures of the king, but this does not appear to have been regarded; and the election having taken place, Mr. Leslie was named a counsellor. At Michaelmas, 1639, he was elected provost, and re-elected to the office in the years 1640, 1642, and 1643.‡

On the day appointed for the annual election, in the year 1646, Mr. Leslie, who had not been a member of council for the preceding year,

---

\* Council Register, vol. lii. p. 235, et seq.

† "CHARLES R.—Trustie and well beloved, wee greet you weill. Whereas we have, at several tymes, understood, and now particularlie, by oure right trustie and well beloved cosen and counsellor the Marquis of Hamilton, oure commissioner, how dutiefullie and cairfullie you have caried yourselfis, at this tyme, in what concerned the good of our service, Wee have thought fitt to tak notice of it unto you againe, and to give you hartie thankis for the same; and as we have now found your affection in a singular way, so wee do assure you that we shall have a particular care of what shall concern you, being confident that you will still continue to carrie yo<sup>r</sup>selfis as you have done, for the furthering of oure service: and, so farre as you can, in a faire and peaceable way, wee authorise you heirby to hinder any other from taking any course that is derogatorie thereunto. And so wee bid you fairweil, from our Court at Bagshot, the 7th September, 1638.—[Council Register, vol. lii. p. 401.]

‡ Council Register, vol. lii. p. 295. 493. 577. 753. 806.

year, attended the meeting, along with Mr. John Row, one of the ministers of the town, and presented an ordinance of the committee of estates, directing the election to be deferred till next session of parliament, on account of a question being in dependence before the committee, concerning the previous election; and ordering the present magistrates and office-bearers, in the meantime, to continue in the exercise of their several offices. The parliament, to which the committee had remitted that question, found, that, as certain *excommunicated* persons, and others who were *rebels* and in arms within the town, had improperly interfered in the election in the year 1646, it was, therefore, null and invalid. The estates nominated and appointed the whole members of council for the present year, and ordained those whom they had so appointed, to meet upon the 24th February, 1647, and to elect the magistrates and office-bearers. This was accordingly done in the usual manner; Mr. Leslie was chosen provost, and at Michaelmas, that year, he was re-elected. After the election which had taken place at Michaelmas, in the year 1648, London, the Lord Chancellor, issued his mandate, enjoining the council to proceed to a new nomination, in case any person who was suspected of the *crimes* and *faults* expressed in the acts of the committee of estates, of the 22d September and 4th October, had been chosen or continued counsellors; and requiring Mr. Leslie, the late provost, to repair to Edinburgh, and attend the committee of estates. As neither he, nor the provost who had been elected, seemed inclined to convene the council, so as to comply with the injunctions of the chancellor's letter, a certain number of the counsellors deputed Alexander Jaffray, one of the baillies, to repair to Edinburgh, to state the matter to the committee. On his representation, an act was passed, declaring and adjudging the election which had taken place to be null and invalid, and nominating the usual number of counsellors for the present year. These were ordained to convene upon the 15th November, and to choose the magistrates and office-bearers for the ensuing year, to which due obedience was shown.\*

---

\* Council Register, vol. liii. p. 86. 105. 186. et seq.

No new election appears to have taken place for the year 1652; and, in September, 1653, Colonel Robert Lilburn, commander of the English forces in the town, by order of the council of estates, directed the former magistrates and council to continue in their respective offices until further orders. On the 3d of October, 1655, there was presented to the magistrates an ordinance from his Highness the Protector's council, authorising the counsellors who had been formerly chosen to proceed to the election of the new council, according to their ancient laws and customs; and, upon the 10th of that month, the old council convened, and made choice of the new, and both together elected the magistrates and office-bearers for the ensuing year, conformable to the usual practice.\* In this situation, the political affairs of the town continued, undisturbed by any interference of the sovereign, till the reign of King James.

In the year 1684, a difference arose between Sir George Skene of Fintray, then provost, and Walter Robertson, and certain other leading men in the council, concerning the election for that year; which led to a question at law before the lords of the privy council. Mr. Robertson and his friends complained of some undue influence having been used by Sir George, at the time of his nomination; but, as the town council declined to espouse the cause of either of the parties, it was referred to the arbitration of the Duke of Gordon, as their sole umpire. His Grace, after due consideration of the matter under reference, determined, that the election of Sir George, as provost, was legal on his part; and ordained Mr. Robertson to declare, in presence of the council, that the information given in by him did not proceed from any personal prejudice, but from a desire to maintain the privileges of the borough. He, at the same time, recommended to the parties to cultivate their former friendship, and enjoined them both to enter into a bond, whereby they should engage not to interfere in the election of magistrates for three years ensuing, so as animosities among the citizens might be prevented. Both parties acquiesced in this award, and so the matter terminated.†

King

---

\* Council Register, vol. liii. p. 398. 428. 461.

† His Grace, on this occasion, was received with the highest marks of distinction. On his ap-



King James VII. had no sooner ascended the throne, than he manifested those arbitrary principles in the government of the kingdom which disgusted the people, alienated their affections from him, and ultimately led to his own overthrow. Among the first of his despotic acts, was an order to the Lord Chancellor, Melfort, concerning the election of the magistrates and town council of Aberdeen, for the year 1685. On the 15th of September, an intimation was made, by a letter from the chancellor, that the “king had in himself the power of naming the magistrates of all his royal boroughs, as often as this might be for the good of his service;” and therefore, agreeably to his Majesty’s pleasure, recommended to the town council to elect George Leslie, one of the baillies, to be provost for the ensuing year. This recommendation was obsequiously complied with, and Mr. Leslie was chosen provost. The king, during the remainder of his short reign, strictly adhered to this unconstitutional doctrine; for, in the year 1686, the chancellor, by command of the king, prohibited any new election at the usual time; and, immediately after, his Majesty himself, by a letter addressed to the lords of the privy council, nominated every one of the counsellors—Mr. Leslie being appointed chief magistrate. At the same time, an order was transmitted to the Earl of Errol to attend the council, and to see his Majesty’s injunctions implicitly obeyed. In the subsequent year, the election was ordered to be postponed, by a warrant from the privy council, till the king’s pleasure should be known; and, in a few months afterwards, all the members of council were appointed, under the same authority. The election for 1688 was postponed, by royal command; but, on the 8th November, a letter was transmitted from the Earl of Perth, chancellor, addressed to the provost, ordering it to be proceeded to; and the council found it necessary to yield immediate compliance with the injunction. This was among the last arbitrary acts of King James, as sovereign of Britain, for it was speedily followed by the forfeiture of his crown and dominions for ever.\*

In

---

proach to the town, he was met by a great number of the burgesses, on horseback, who accompanied him to his lodging; and, on his entry, he was saluted by firing of cannon.—[*Council Register*. vol. lvii. p. 211.]

\* *Council Register*, vol. lvii. p. 186. 236. 266. 271. 295. 297.

In the year 1696, the election of the new council having taken place when nine members only were present, was brought under reduction, and declared null and invalid, by a decree of the lords of the privy council; and the new counsellors were ordained to be chosen by the magistrates and council, who had been elected in the years 1695 and 1696, jointly. Those so to be elected were appointed to continue in office till Michaelmas, 1698;\* and, by an act of council, it was declared, that no person should remain in the situation of provost longer than two years successively, at any one period.†

In the beginning of the seventeenth century, many worthy persons, actuated by motives of benevolence, and by a regard which they entertained for the town and community, gave and devised, by deeds of mortmain, various sums of money and property, which were vested in the magistrates and town council, as trustees and guardians, for charitable purposes, and for the support of the public works and institutions of the place. These monies had been carefully stocked, and lent to individuals, on such security as could be obtained in the town and county; so that a permanent annual revenue might be derived from these funds, and applied, agreeably to the injunctions of the benevolent donors.‡ At the commencement of the civil wars, the stock of the mortmains, although pretty considerable, was soon torn away from the trustees, and applied to relieve the inhabitants of the very heavy contributions that were imposed upon them by the leaders of contending armies. By these means, the funds being early exhausted, and the multiplied impositions upon the citizens having become intolerable, the administrators of the town found it necessary to adopt another expedient to relieve them of these grievous exactions, and to extricate them from many other difficulties in which they were involved. The magistrates borrowed money for these purposes, in name of the treasurer, from individuals who were inclined to advance it, and pledged the security of the treasury for its repayment. At the close of the civil commotions, in the year 1651, the whole accumulated debt, due by the public to the town and community,

---

\* Council Register, vol. lvii. p. 592. 604.

† Ibid. vol. lvii. p. 608.

‡ Vide Table, at the end of this section.



nity, was computed to be 927,120 merks,\* which comprehended not only those sums of money which had been borrowed, in the name of the treasurer, for the above purposes, and for supporting the inhabitants during the time that the pestilence raged in the town, but also the funds under the administration of the magistrates and council, as trustees and guardians of the mortmain and public institutions, which we have just mentioned. As soon as the government of the kingdoms had been confirmed under the protector and his council, the magistrates did not neglect to present to the parliament of England a state of this debt, which appeared to be so well established, that there was no hesitation in passing an act, authorising them to retain the public cess payable by the borough, for liquidating it in part; and the money levied on that account was applied accordingly. But, at the time of the restoration, this had only extinguished 18,000 merks of the principal sum, after payment of the annual interest. Soon after this epocha, it appears, that frequent assessments had been made annually upon the inhabitants, under the authority of head courts, for discharging a part of the interest of the treasury debt; but these, and the sums which were, at the same time, levied, for payment of the stipends of the ministers of the town, and other municipal purposes, were grievous burdens upon the people, who had not yet recovered from the distresses of the civil war. It, therefore, became necessary for the administrators to adopt a less burdensome and more effectual expedient for discharging the great load of treasury debt. In the year 1678, they applied to parliament, and obtained an act, authorising them to impose and levy the following internal customs and duties; namely, 4d. on the Scottish pint of ale and beer, and L.50 on every ton of wine; 2s. on the pint of brandy, wine, and aqua vitæ, vended or consumed within the town; 13s. 4d. on the carcass of every ox, 12s. on every calf, and 6d. on every other animal, brought to the market for sale;† and that for and during the period of eleven years, to enable them to extinguish the debt, due to the town and community, amounting, at this period, to 927,000 merks.

In

---

\* This sum was equal to L.51,506 sterling; and supposed to have been the amount of their losses during the civil wars.—[*Council Register*, vol. liii. p. 380.]

† This impost was generally let on lease; and, in the year 1687, the duty on wines, spirits, and ale, was only L.2350, or L.195 16s. 8d. sterling.—[*Council Register*, vol. lvi. p. 361, et seq.]





the impost, under the above acts of parliament, and by the treasurer interposing his security for the deficiency; yet he was subjecting himself and the ancient patrimony of the borough to an accumulating debt of L.5742 14s. 11d. annually, which, without an assessment upon the inhabitants, or some extraordinary means, never could be checked, or prevented; for even the revenue arising from the impost was inadequate to accomplish the reduction of it. Indeed, after the rebellion, in the year 1715, the treasury debt had, by these means, increased to the sum of L.50,214 4s. 6d. exclusive of the money due by the community at large for the expense of the public wells. These circumstances we shall elucidate by the subjoined state, which has been extracted from the annual public accounts, exhibited and read in the Michaelmas head court, previous to the elections.\*

K K

On

\* State of the Treasurer's Annual Account, at Michaelmas, 1712, for the preceding year.—

JOHN MIDDLETON, TREASURER.

| PERMANENT REVENUE.                                                                      |   |   | <i>Scottish Money.</i> |      |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|------------------------|------|
| 1711 To feu and teind duties received                                                   | - | - | £.1422                 | 19 9 |
| ... rents of the town's public mills, of the bell and petty customs, &c. let on lease   |   |   | 4058                   | 13 4 |
| ... rents of shops under the tolbooth, and vault on the south side of the<br>Castlegate | - | - | 124                    | 0 0  |
| ... feu duties receivable                                                               | - | - | 288                    | 0 0  |
| ... assessment on the inhabitants, for interest of the debt on the public wells, &c.    |   |   | 1335                   | 16 0 |
| ... interest of 1000 merks, due by William Gordon Taylor                                | - | - | 36                     | 13 4 |
| ... nett rent of Pettins and Bogfairly                                                  | - | - | 777                    | 1 6  |
| ... fees of mortcloths, received for the preceding year                                 | - | - | 250                    | 0 0  |
| ... duplicando, for entering vassals                                                    | - | - | 19                     | 12 0 |
|                                                                                         |   |   | <hr/> £.8312 15 11     |      |

## ANNUAL EXPENDITURE.

|                                                                                                            |   |        |            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|--------|------------|
| 1711 By ministers' stipends, and coals, and for the Ann, to the relict<br>and children of Mr. James Osborn | - | £.3568 | 2 0        |
| ... Equæ dues                                                                                              | - | 237    | 4 8        |
| ... interest of monies due by the treasurer                                                                | - | 3169   | 0 8        |
| ... charges of the commissioners to the boroughs                                                           | - | 744    | 4 0        |
| ... salaries to officers, &c.                                                                              | - | 1048   | 0 0        |
| ... law charges                                                                                            | - | 244    | 5 8        |
| ... the bibliothecar of the college                                                                        | - | 177    | 8 6        |
| ... charges of transporting Mr. Melville, minister, to the town                                            | - | 513    | 15 0       |
| <hr/> Carried forward                                                                                      |   |        | £.9702 0 6 |

On these topics we shall have occasion to enlarge more fully, in another branch of this work.

Although

|                                                                                                                                                                       |   | <i>Scottish Money.</i> |    |    |              |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|------------------------|----|----|--------------|
| Brought forward                                                                                                                                                       |   | £.9702                 | 0  | 6  | £.8312 15 11 |
| 1711 By dean of guild, repaid him for certain municipal charges, for which the treasury was liable, after applying the funds generally appropriated to these purposes | - | 1971                   | 14 | 4  |              |
| ... petty disbursements this year                                                                                                                                     | - | 1717                   | 4  | 4  |              |
| ... town serjeants, for attendance on the muscle scalp                                                                                                                | - | 289                    | 6  | 8  |              |
| ... town's advocate, and agent's salaries                                                                                                                             | - | 90                     | 13 | 4  |              |
| ... charge of collecting the cess and well money                                                                                                                      | - | 236                    | 17 | 10 |              |
| ... cess of Pettins                                                                                                                                                   | - | 17                     | 10 | 6  |              |
| ... proportion of the chamberlain's salary                                                                                                                            | - | 30                     | 3  | 4  |              |
|                                                                                                                                                                       |   | <hr/>                  |    |    |              |
|                                                                                                                                                                       |   | 14055 10 10            |    |    |              |
|                                                                                                                                                                       |   | <hr/>                  |    |    |              |
|                                                                                                                                                                       |   | £.5742 14 11           |    |    |              |
| In sterling money                                                                                                                                                     |   | £.478 11 2             |    |    |              |

|                                                                |   |         |    |   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|---|---------|----|---|
| The debt due by the treasurer, at Michaelmas, 1711             | - | £.49068 | 4  | 7 |
| Of which there was paid by the revenue arising from the impost |   | 5000    | 0  | 0 |
|                                                                |   | <hr/>   |    |   |
| And there remained the sum of                                  | - | £.44068 | 4  | 7 |
| Of which there was due, by the community, for the well debt    |   | 18855   | 7  | 6 |
|                                                                |   | <hr/>   |    |   |
| And there remained a balance of                                | - | £.25212 | 17 | 1 |
| Or, in sterling money                                          | - | £.2101  | 1  | 5 |

These sums were due to the other public funds, under the administration of the magistrates, having been advanced, from time to time, to the treasurer, as the public exigencies required.

The debt due by the treasurer, at Michaelmas, 1716, was as follows, viz.:-

|                                                                                                                    |   |              |    |    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|--------------|----|----|
| To the master of guild brethren's hospital                                                                         | - | £.8641       | 16 | 1  |
| .. the master of kirk and bridge works                                                                             | - | 12435        | 7  | 11 |
| ... the dean of guild                                                                                              | - | 3386         | 19 | 9  |
| ... the master of mortifications                                                                                   | - | 38025        | 12 | 2  |
| ... Alex. Innes, merchant in Edinburgh                                                                             | - | 4000         | 0  | 0  |
| ... Mrs. Betty Udry                                                                                                | - | 2666         | 13 | 11 |
|                                                                                                                    |   | <hr/>        |    |    |
|                                                                                                                    |   | £.69156 9 10 |    |    |
| Of which sum there was due by the community, for the debt contracted by the treasurer, for the public wells, being | - | 18942        | 5  | 4  |
|                                                                                                                    |   | <hr/>        |    |    |
| So there remained a balance of                                                                                     | - | £.50214      | 4  | 6  |
| The debt due at Michaelmas, 1711, was only                                                                         |   | 25212        | 17 | 1  |
|                                                                                                                    |   | <hr/>        |    |    |
| So that it had increased, in five years                                                                            | - | £.25001      | 7  | 5  |



Although there had been no political dissensions, during this period, between the burgesses of guild and the administrators of the town, yet an attempt was made, in the year 1678, to inflame the minds of the citizens against the magistrates, concerning certain assessments, which had been authorised by the annual head courts, for defraying the municipal charges of the town, for answering the deficiency of the interest of the public debt, which had been contracted during the war, and in the time of the pestilence; and for other public purposes. John Innes, and some other burgesses who adhered to him, conceiving that they were entitled to annul this proceeding, commenced an opposition to the assessment; and Mr. Innes' patriotic zeal unfortunately led him so far as to offer indignity to the magistrates in the annual head court. In order to vindicate their authority, they not only imposed upon him a very heavy fine, but committed him to prison, shut up his shop, and disfranchised him. This very rigid exertion of power compelled him to present a complaint to the lords of the privy council, charging the magistrates with having committed upon him an act of oppression. They, in return, recriminated, and accused him "of stirring up sedition and mutiny among the citizens, by asserting that they had, since the restoration, uplifted upwards of 20,000 merks from the town, by way of assessment, and applied the money to their own private use; although it consisted with his knowledge that they had expressed their readiness to shew that it had been profitably applied to payment of the ministers' stipends, to the support of the public hospital, and to other municipal purposes." They, at the same time, represented to the privy council, that the common good of the borough was so inadequate to the charge upon it, that there was an urgent necessity for assessing the inhabitants yearly for the deficiency; and they denied the assertion of Mr. Innes, that, in stenting, they had charged him for his importations, and then assessed him for the same goods, when he retailed them. In those arbitrary and despotic times, where justice was often prevented by faction and interest, Mr. Innes had very little chance of obtaining redress of his grievances, especially where public functionaries were concerned. The lords, after mature deliberation, approved of the conduct of the magistrates, in every point, and, as he had been, in the meantime, liberated from confinement, ordained him, under a

penalty of 2000 merks, to return to prison within ten days, where he was to remain, during the pleasure of the magistrates. He submitted accordingly, acknowledged his offence, and having, in a head court, which was assembled for the purpose, craved their pardon, his liberty and freedom were restored to him, and L.100 of his fine remitted.\* This circumstance seems to have checked, for many years, every opposition to the assessments upon the inhabitants; for, during the remainder of this period, very heavy sums were continued to be assessed annually, for ministers' stipends and municipal charges, &c. which will appear from the table annexed to the end of this chapter.

When episcopacy had been abolished in Scotland, the committees of religion, as they were called, assumed the whole ecclesiastical jurisdiction. The Scottish presbyterian clergy claimed an absolute independence of the civil magistrate, and ruled with rigour and unrelaxing austerity over their congregations. We have already had occasion to remark, that the church session of Aberdeen had, from its earliest establishment, possessed unbounded authority, and exercised its jurisdiction with unrelenting severity. In the present age, this court did not abate its rigorous discipline over unfortunate transgressors, on whom absurd and extravagant punishments† continued

---

\* Council Register, vol. lvi. p. 338. 345. 351. et seq.—Fountainhall's Dec. vol. i. p. 16.

† We have selected, from the records of the church session, the following, as specimens of the many cases which occurred before this ecclesiastical judicatory, in the course of this age:—

1st July, 1638.—Jcills Paterson, who confessed fornication with Adam Dow, servant to Alexander Sutherland of Forres, within his ship, at the quay, was ordained to be carted from the cross to the quayhead, where she was to be ducked at the cran; thereafter, to be confined in the correction-house till Whitsunday next, and to be whipped *every Monday* during that period.

30th August, 1640.—Elspet Taylor, spouse to Alex. Robertson, having confessed the sin of adultery with John Gordon, brother of Alexander Gordon of Birsemore, *as she alleged*, was ordained to be scourged at the cross to-morrow, to be carted through the town, with a paper crown on her head, and the bellman to go before, and proclaim her banishment from the town.

The same day—Agnes Hay, guilty of fornication with William Ross, soldier, under promise of marriage, and *bands proclaimed*, was ordered to be carried to the correction-house, and, on Saturday next, to be taken to the cross, and set in the branks, having her head *clipped*; and to make



tinued to be inflicted, for irregularities and deviations from the ordinances of the church; the consequence of which was, that child murder was not unfrequently committed, and many unhappy persons suffered the utmost severity of the law. About the year 1641, Mr. Andrew Cant, who had been distinguished as an active promoter of the covenant, was appointed one of the ministers of the town, and, for some time, had the whole ministerial charge. No sooner had he entered upon the duties of his office, than he began to exercise his ecclesiastical authority with much rigour, and even fulminated his anathemas against the civil magistrate, for not complying with his dictates. His ecclesiastical tyranny at length became intolerable to the people, and his congregation was compelled to complain to the magistrates, of his having introduced, under pretence of religious zeal, innovations and practices into the church, by which no person could be admitted to the communion, except those who presented themselves for trial of their religious faith, and were found duly qualified, as fit christians, to partake of that sacred ordinance. This complaint he appears to have disregarded; and, in place of yielding to the remonstrance of the magistrates, against the impropriety of his conduct, declaimed against them from the pulpit for their interference in what he considered to be cognizable only in the church session. The matter was represented to the provincial synod, but redress was not to be expected from this court; and both the magistrates and the congregation were compelled to submit, with reluctance, to his decrees. In the year 1660, a complaint was presented to the magistrates, charging him with having published a seditious book, entitled *Lex Rex*, without authority, and for denouncing anathemas and imprecations against many of his congregation, in the course of performing

---

her repentance on Sunday: and to be conveyed back to the correction-house, where she was to remain during the pleasure of the session.

17th December, 1660.—George Mill, who had been whipped through the town for a trelapse in fornication, having cursed the spectators, was found to have been *heinously* guilty, and remitted to the presbytery, as worthy of excommunication.

1705.—Francis Shepherd being deleted before the presbytery, for having drank *Satan's* health, was ordained to appear in the church, in sackcloth, to expiate his offence, but died in the meantime.



performing his religious duties. A variety of proceedings took place on this question before the magistrates, but no judgment was given; Mr. Cant, however, finding his situation rather unpleasant, amidst popular discontents, withdrew himself from his pastoral charge, removed from the town with his wife and family, and died about the year 1664.\* After the re-establishment of episcopal authority, the clergy and the church session did not relax in their severity and tyranny over the people; nor were these reformed in their morals by the punishments which were inflicted upon them, but seem to have persevered in their irregularities, almost in defiance of the civil and ecclesiastical courts.

In this age, there were few religious sects in Aberdeen, the people being either presbyterians, or of the episcopal persuasion, although not a few continued to adhere to the doctrines of popery. In the year 1663, the religion of the quakers began to gain ground among some of the inhabitants. It had, by this time, made considerable progress in England, under the famous George Fox and James Naylor; and its enthusiasm having spread to this place, occasioned no little disturbance, both to the magistrates and to the ecclesiastics. Mr. George Keith, William Nepper, shipmaster, and William Stuart, three of the citizens, having broken off all connexion with the established church, and openly avowed the principles of the quakers, the magistrates considered that this religious innovation deserved their serious attention. They convened these people before them, condemned them to be immediately conducted out of the town by the serjeants, and prohibited the inhabitants from harbouring them in their houses, under heavy penalties. These severities they bore with their usual patience, persisting in holding occasional religious meetings in the town, and increasing the number of their proselytes. The magistrates, alarmed at their success in gaining converts and, perhaps, instigated by the clergy,† without  
further

---

\* Council Register, vol. lii. p. 624. vol. liii. p. 413. 437. et seq. vol. liv. p. 189. 200. et seq.

† Thomas Milne, shoemaker, having become a convert to the quakers, was called before the church session, but having persevered in maintaining his principles, was remitted to the three mi-

further enquiry, issued their orders to apprehend all male quakers at their next convention, to imprison them in the jail, and to shut up their meeting-house. Such, however, was their enthusiasm, that they were not to be intimidated by these rigorous measures. They persevered in the profession of their religious doctrines, and were subjected to every indignity, of imprisonment and disfranchisement. Having appropriated a piece of ground, on the east side of the Gallowgate, to the interment of their dead, they buried the bodies in it, without any religious ceremony; but this having attracted the attention of the magistrates, they ordered these to be raised, and buried in consecrated ground, and the walls of their burial place to be demolished. To all these oppressions they submitted, without the least murmur. In the year 1674, Thomas Dochray and William Gelly, two of these inoffensive people, were imprisoned, under a warrant from the magistrates, upon a charge which was brought against them for deriding the holiness of the *kirk*, by calling it a *steeple-house*, and for attending their *conventicle*. Those men remained in jail for some time; but a representation being made to the lords of the privy council, they were ordered, by a letter from the Lord Chancellor, to be liberated. After this period, the quakers appear to have been allowed to practise their devotions and religious duties agreeably to the principles which they professed, and to bury their dead, according to their own custom, without molestation.\*

In this puritanical age, the people in general seem to have been extremely bigotted; while men in office assumed a grave and even sanctified demeanour. Theology appears to have been their favourite study, and the object of their thoughts and contemplations. Their literature was the sacred writings, and the more enthusiastic description of commentators on the bible. The publications of authors connected with Aberdeen demonstrate this in a very strong degree, and mark the ruling temper of their minds. That sanctity was religiously observed by those in the profession of the law, who would  
not

---

nisters of the town, to use their influence with him, which seems to have had very little effect, and the matter was dropped.—[*Records of Church Session, 25th Nov. 1661.*]

\* Council Register, vol. liv. p. 495. vol. lv. p. 209. 352. 402. 561. 628.

not presume to use the name of the supreme being in the introductory clause of a notarial instrument, lest they should incur the displeasure of the church. Their writings and public papers were also framed and written in a loose and careless manner, which evinced that their speculations were generally engaged in something else than the object before them. On days appropriated to public rejoicing, the people expressed their exultations in psalmody on the streets, in imitation of their superiors; and, although the former part of the day was devoted to religious duty, yet the latter part was often spent in drinking wine, which not unfrequently engendered strife and disorder among the citizens.

To restrain their licentious disposition, statutes were repeatedly enacted by the magistrates and council, denouncing blasphemers, profaners, and all those who committed breaches of the Sabbath, by walking on the streets, or in the fields, during the time of sermon; prohibiting keepers of taverns from selling spirituous liquors to any person, after nine o'clock at night, under the penalty of L.10; and interdicting the sale of flesh, fish, and green herbs, on Sunday.\*

During no part of this period have we discovered any games or pastimes in practice among the citizens, except *bowling*,† and *golfing*, which last continues to be a favourite recreation at the present day. Bowling greens are said to have originated in England, and bowling was a popular amusement for many centuries. It was first introduced, by the citizens of Aberdeen, after the restoration, in the links, where a regular green was formed for their accommodation, about the beginning of the eighteenth century. When the garden of Robert Gordon's hospital was laid out, about the middle of that period, a bowling green was made in it for the use of the citizens; but it is not now so generally frequented as it was wont to be in former times.

Rioting,

---

\* Council Register, vol. lii. p. 10. vol. lv. p. 139.

† Two or more persons could engage in this pastime. A small bowl, or *jack*, served as a mark for the direction of the bowls, and which was bowled at alternately by the players; the successful candidate being he who could lay his bowl nearest to the mark. It was seldom practised by the juvenile part of the citizens.



Rioting and meal-mobbing, in the town, appear to have commenced in the year 1638, being incited by the exportation of meal from the port of Aberdeen. The artificers having taken the alarm, assembled, along with their servants, in hostile array, armed with swords and pistols, and seized and carried off, in their passage to the quay, eighty sacks of meal, which they lodged in the Trinity hospital. The magistrates did not neglect speedily to suppress this insurrection, and to redress the outrage which had been committed. They summoned before them the convener and deacons of the incorporations, and imposed a fine of L.80 upon the former, and L.40 upon each of the latter; and ordained them to acknowledge the offence in the public court.\* This summary exertion of authority seems to have checked tumultuous disorders of this kind for many years.

The civil commotions, and distracted state of the nation, during the greatest part of the seventeenth century, proved a great obstruction to trade and manufactures in Scotland; and the progress of these was necessarily very languid. In the year 1612, the magistrates made an attempt to establish a herring fishery at Aberdeen, and, with that view, purchased, at Rotterdam, a vessel of fourteen lasts burden, completely fitted out with nets and lines, and engaged a Dutchman, as master and conductor of the business, to whom they promised an adequate remuneration for his services and attention; but what progress they made in the undertaking we have not been informed.

In the year 1636, they obtained from King Charles I. a patent for establishing a house of correction, chiefly with the view of reforming the morals, and of promoting good order and industry among a certain description of the inhabitants, who were to be employed in manufacturing broad cloths, *kerseys*, *seys*, and other coarse cloths. This being a new and important undertaking, Robert and Nicholas Beaston were brought from Edinburgh to superintend the work, and to direct the magistrates in the proper mode of conducting it. For this establishment, a property was purchased in that part of the

L 1

town

---

\* Council Register, vol. lii. p. 380.

town which afterwards obtained the name of the Correction-wynd, at the expense of 2000 merks, raised, under the authority of a head court, by an assessment upon the citizens.\* The manufacture of cloths was carried on, in the house of correction, for several years, by a joint stock company, to a pretty considerable extent; but met with great obstruction, during the civil wars, from the contending armies, which, on repeated occasions, pillaged their wares. After the disastrous battle of the Crabestone, the proprietor's loss was estimated at L.1863 16s. 8d. being the value of goods which had been plundered by the Irish soldiers, and carried off from the shops of those who had fallen; besides 286 ells of broad cloth, and 185 of kerseys, that had been given to the leaders of the army, by order of the magistrates, for preventing the destruction of the merchants' books. Some years afterwards, in order to promote this undertaking, they purchased a fulling mill, on the river Don; but, towards the close of the century, the trade seems to have languished, and the work was abandoned about the year 1711, when the properties were sold, and converted to other purposes. This establishment appears to have partaken of the nature of a modern bridewell; for all vagabonds and minor delinquents were ordered, by a special act of the town council, to be confined, and employed at work in the correction-house, which, not unfrequently, was also appropriated as a prison for ecclesiastical offenders.

From the account of customs of the port of Aberdeen, which were collected by the magistrates, under the authority of the executive power, for the year from 1st November, 1650, to 1st November, 1651, it appears, that 73,358 ells of plaiden† were manufactured, and exported to Campvere and Dantzic. This work may, therefore, be reckoned the parent of all the subsequent manufacturing establishments of that kind in the town. About this period we may be allowed to date the origin of the manufacture of stockings, which, in the subsequent century, acquired so much repute abroad,

---

\* Council Register, vol. lii. p. 301.

† Sir Patrick Drummond, at that time Conservator in Holland, often remarked, that Scotland was more obliged to the town of Aberdeen, for returns in money for its trade, than to all the other towns of the kingdom.—[*Philopoliteus' History of Aberdeen*, p. 245.]

abroad, and tended not only to enrich many of the citizens who embarked in that branch of manufacture, but to afford constant employment, both to the young and to the old, who were employed in spinning the raw material, and knitting the stockings. In the course of the last mentioned period, 415 dozens of pairs of these were exported to Campvere, Norway, and Dantzic.

In the year 1640, Robert Johnston, Esq. of London, a native of Aberdeen, actuated by motives of benevolence, with a view to promote industry among the inhabitants, devised, by his last will, to the magistrates and council, the sum of L.600 sterling, which he ordered to be applied in such a manner as to enable them to employ the poor people of the town in trade and manufactures. The yearly profit to be derived therefrom was directed to be appropriated to the relief of the aged blind, lame, and impotent people of the town. This money seems, on frequent occasions, to have been employed in purchasing materials for various branches of manufactures, and particularly in promoting those which we have just now had occasion to mention.

Salmon and pork were, at this time, as they had been for many previous ages, the staple commodities of Aberdeen. These articles were exported to Holland, France, and Spain, on a pretty extensive scale, and made certain and prompt returns to the merchants. Salmon were caught, in great abundance, in the rivers Dee and Don, and produced, in favourable seasons, upwards of 1440 barrels.\* The curing and preparing the salmon for the foreign market was particularly attended to by the magistrates, who appointed not only the coopers that were employed in salting and packing the fish, but also a person to mark the barrels with the letters ABD. before they were shipped for exportation. By these means, improper practices were prevented, and the commodity, being known by that distinguishing mark, acquired a character in the foreign market. After the union of the two kingdoms, salmon caught in the early part of the season

L 1 2

found

---

\* A barrel contained about 250 pounds weight of salmon. The season commences 12th December, and ends 19th September.



found a ready market at London. The fish was boiled, and preserved with vinegar, and exported to that city in small kits, from time to time, by swift sailing smacks, employed for the purpose. Some of these vessels were provided with wells, in which the fishes were preserved alive till they arrived at London; but this did not always answer the purpose intended, for a tedious or stormy passage often proved fatal to the cargo. Towards the end of the eighteenth century, a very important discovery was made, for preserving salmon in a fresh state, by means of ice, which tended very much to increase the demand of the London market, and greatly to enhance the value of this species of property.

The pork of Aberdeen was long esteemed in the foreign market, not only on account of its intrinsic quality, but from the care and attention which was bestowed upon it by the coopers in curing and packing it. For centuries, the inhabitants were in the practice of rearing hogs; and the farmers and millers in the county had generally one or more of these to dispose of. They were purchased by the butchers of the town, killed at the age of fifteen or eighteen months, and sold to the coopers, who cured the pork for exportation. The magistrates, at an early period, established salutary regulations for this branch of trade; and an officer was appointed, under their authority, to examine the quality and soundness of the pork, before it was delivered to the purchaser, or allowed to be removed from the market place.

Besides these articles, there were considerable exports of wool-fells,\* plaiden, fingrams, stuffs, serges, and stockings. The imports consisted principally of wines, brandy, sugar, tobacco, soap, iron, slates, warlike stores, and manufactured goods, from Holland, Flanders, and other parts of the continent;† but the intercourse with England would seem to have been very inconsiderable.

In

---

\* Thirty thousand lamb skins were said to have been exported, in one year, to Dantzic.

† The return of customs and excise to the crown, by Aberdeen, after the restoration, was estimated, in the 17th century, at L.30,000 Scots, or L.2,500 Sterling.

The shipping belonging to the port of Aberdeen appears to have gradually decayed, in consequence of the civil wars; and the destruction of the inhabitants, by the plague, proved fatal to commerce, which did not revive for many years. In the year 1656, the only vessels belonging to the port were, one of 80 tons burden, one of 70, one of 60, three of 50 tons each, two of 30 tons each, and one of 20; in all, nine vessels, or 440 tons.\* In the year 1692, there were only two galliots belonging to it, of 30 tons burden each.

In the end of the seventeenth century, a company was established in Scotland, under the authority of an act of parliament, for trading to Africa and the East Indies, known by the name of the *African Company*, which flattered the nation with unbounded prospects of extensive trade and dominion. Among other adventurers, the magistrates of Aberdeen agreed to hold a share in it, to the extent of L.300 sterling, for behoof of the community; but the opposition made to this undertaking by the people of England, and the discouragement which it met with from King William, soon blasted all the sanguine expectations of the proprietors. In a few years, the company was dissolved, and the town of Aberdeen suffered, among others. On the passing of the treaty of union, in 1707, a part of the equivalent was voted for an indemnification to this company, for its heavy losses, and the magistrates received their proportion of the money which had been appropriated to that purpose.†

In the end of this last mentioned year, the magistrates and some of the citizens appear to have been embarked in a more lucrative adventure. The Levant galley, of Amsterdam, having been driven on shore by a violent storm, in the month of December, was unfortunately wrecked, on the sands of Belhelvie, about five miles to the north of the town; but the captain and crew were saved. The ship, it would seem, had been in the course of her outward passage to the East Indies, and had on board a cargo of broad cloths, and other valuable goods. At this period, perhaps, the preservation of property, in this critical situation, for behoof of the owners, was not so much regarded

---

\* MS. in Advocates' Library.

† Council Register, vol. lvii. p. 524. vol. lviii. p. 71. 75.

regarded as at the present time ; and, therefore, the captain was induced, for a piece of money, to dispose of the ship and cargo to some of the merchants of the town. As soon as the bargain had been concluded, it was transferred by these merchants to the magistrates, for the benefit of the community, in consideration of the sum of L.200 sterling, which was paid to them for relinquishing it. The Earl of Errol, as admiral of that part of the coast, claimed his salvage for the ship and cargo, and was paid by the magistrates L.300 sterling, on this account ; but his Lordship was pleased to return L.50 sterling, to be applied towards erecting the pier at Torry. The dyers received L.105 11s. 1½d. for washing and cleaning the cloth, which was sold at 7s. 6d. the yard. The profits arising from this adventure were ordered, by the council, to be invested in landed property ;\* but what these profits were, or how they were applied, we have not been informed. The timber saved of the wreck was used in constructing the wooden head of the south pier, and in covering the platform of the Weigh-house.

At the æra of the restoration, the post-office of Aberdeen does not appear to have been under the management of government. It had been established by the magistrates in the end of the sixteenth century, for conveying their dispatches to and from Edinburgh, and other places of royal residence. They appointed a person for conducting these dispatches, under the name of the council post, who was dressed in a garment of blue cloth, with the town's armorial bearings, in silver, upon the right sleeve. In the year 1667, they established a regular post, to run betwixt Aberdeen and Edinburgh, twice in the week ; to leave Edinburgh on Tuesday and Thursday, and Aberdeen on Wednesday and Friday. The rate of postage was 2s. for a single letter, 4s. for a double letter, and 5s. for a packet weighing one ounce.† But, at this period, epistolary correspondence not being so extensive as in modern times, the revenue derived from that source was very inconsiderable ; and the post-office not being considered as any object to government, was confirmed to the town by an act of the privy council. To this department there was annexed the additional

---

\* Council Register, vol. lviii. p. 86, et seq.

† Ibid. vol. liv. p. 725. 727. 733.



tional privilege of letting horses for hire, which was generally farmed to a person who was usually employed in that line of business. After the magistrates had formed a proper establishment for the post, they were deprived of the office by government; and the conveying of letters and dispatches was, in the year 1674, put under the direction of the postmaster-general of Scotland.\* They were, however, still allowed to exercise the privilege of letting horses for hire within the town; and were in the practice of farming it from year to year, till towards the middle of the eighteenth century, when it appears to have been dropped.

In the preceding chapter we had occasion to mark the discovery of the art of printing, its introduction into Scotland, and the establishment of a printing-office at Aberdeen. On the death of Mr. Raban, the first printer, in the year 1649, Mr. James Brown was appointed his successor, by the magistrates and town council, on the 9th of the subsequent month of January, with the same emoluments which his predecessor had been entitled to receive from the town. He printed the works of several authors who flourished at the time.† On his death, which happened in the year 1662, John Forbes, stationer, purchased from Agnes Rutherford, his widow, the whole types, printing presses, and apparatus, which had belonged to her husband; and, on the 23d April, that year, Mr. Forbes and his son, jointly, were appointed, by the magistrates and council, printers to the town and university,‡ with the exclusive privilege of printing. As an encouragement to prosecute the business, they were provided with a printing-office, on the north side of the Castlestreet, and a dwelling house, rent free;§ and, by an act of council, all merchants and chapmen were prohibited from importing into the town any pamphlets or small books, to their prejudice. Some years subsequent

---

\* Council Register, vol. iv. p. 561, et seq.

† In 1631, he printed "The form and order of the Coronation of Charles II. as it was acted and done at Scone, the 1st January, 1651."

‡ Mr. Forbes had a salary of L.60 yearly from the King's and Marischal College.—[*Council Register*, vol. liv. p. 576.]

§ Council Register, vol. liv. p. 365.

quent to this appointment, Andrew Anderson, formerly a printer in Glasgow, having commenced business at Edinburgh, prevailed on the printers in this city to apply for a patent, to be taken out in his name, by which they were to be jointly vested with the office of King's printer. Having succeeded in their application, they, in the year 1671, obtained a patent so extensive, that no one in the kingdom was at liberty to print any book, from a bible to a ballad, without a licence from Anderson.\* They accordingly availed themselves of it, by commencing a law-suit against all the printers in Scotland for encroaching upon their rights; and Mr. Forbes, among others, experienced the weight of their action, having incurred very heavy charges in the defence of his privilege. The magistrates, however, conceiving that this was an infringement of their right, interposed, and maintained his privilege, in opposition to the patent. On this Anderson, in February, 1672, wrote them upon the subject a very satisfactory letter,† in which he and the other printers most readily dispensed with

---

\* Watson's History of Printing, Preface, p. 11, et seq.

† "MY LORD PROVOST—Ther has been ane misrepresentati<sup>on</sup> of ane gift grantit by his Majestie to me and my partners, in q<sup>h</sup> I am allowed the priviledge of being printer for the kingdome, insinuating that I have ingrosed all printing and selling of books in my own hands, contrar to the libertie of prenters and booksellers, if they had any, and to extorse the leidges with exorbitant pryces, and to discharge importing of books for public or privat use; all which is false and anelis, for ther was never such thing intendit by me or my partners, against any man who hes served to the art of printing, or to any bookseller, they behaving themselves regularlie to the laws of the kingdome, and being frie of all impeachment upon his Majestie's honor or prerogatives. Therfor, my Lord, wit ye me to dispens with my brother, John Forbes, notwithstanding of that gift, to print all the coppies that sall occurr or come to his hands from your Lordsh<sup>ip</sup>, or any other particular persone within or without the citie of Aberdeen, being licentiate by your Lopsh<sup>ip</sup>, my Lord Bishope, or inferior Clergie, excepting such books as I have prented besyde me, or, efter intima<sup>ti</sup>on, such as I am to prent; all these premiss<sup>es</sup> ar condescendit upon by your printer and me, with consent of my partners; and for mor verificali<sup>on</sup> of my consent y<sup>e</sup>unto, lett ther presents be insert in your toun's books, therein to stand, *ad futuram rei memoriam*. Without doubt, it hes cost your printer much expenss in attending this business; but tuo lynes from your Lopsh<sup>ip</sup> might have saift this travell, which hes bien so pleged by him, that no rest could be allowed to me or my partners, till we hade fullie aggreid; and this wes without prejudice to the priviledges of the city, colladges, or printer of Aberdeen. I owe and desyre to be craved debtor to your Lopsh<sup>ip</sup>, and toun of Aberdeen, for my service and respects. I am, my Lord, your most humble servant,

" ANDRO ANDERSONE.

" DAVID FRENCH.

" JAMES GLEN.

" THOMAS BROWN.

" GEORGE SUINTOUN."

*Council Register, vol. lv. p. 362.*

with their patent, so far as it interfered with Mr. Forbes' right, and allowed him, or any other printer, who might be licensed by the magistrates, by the bishop, or the inferior clergy, to print any book whatever, except such works as had been executed, and were not disposed of, by the patentees. The law-suit being, therefore, abandoned, Mr. Forbes continued to carry on the business upon a pretty extensive scale, without further molestation. He was among the first Scottish printers who were possessed of music types; and printed, in the year 1666, a Collection of Cantos and Songs, set to music, with a brief introduction to the art, as taught by Thomas Davison, in the music school of Aberdeen; which work he re-printed, in the year 1682.\* Mr. Forbes, in the course of his business, unfortunately incurred the displeasure of his patrons, in the year 1683, by publishing a pamphlet on Medicine, in which there were reflections thrown upon the conduct of some of the physicians and surgeons of the town, and, for this offence, was subjected to the censure of the magistrates.† He was the earliest publisher, in Scotland, of an almanack, commencing in the year 1677, under the title of a "*New Prognostication, calculated for North Britain*;"‡ which was embellished by the armorial bearings of Aberdeen on the title page. This work he continued to publish annually, until the year 1700; but it soon attracted the attention, not only of Mr. Anderson's widow, who, in the right of her husband's patent, was now the king's printer in Edinburgh, but also of certain other printers; and became an object of their jealousy and rivalry. They reprinted it, without Mr. Forbes' permission, and counterfeited the arms of the town, which they also affixed to their publication. On this he was advised to present a complaint to the lords of the privy council, charging these printers with having deprived him of his right, and suitable reparation was

M M

awarded

---

\* Mr. Forbes printed these small Latin Authors, *Quædam P. Virgilii Maronis Epigrammata, cum Morcto, &c.—Comparationes Linguae Latine, in usum studiosæ juventutis, ut docentur in Scholis Grammaticis.*

† Council Register, vol. lvii. p. 73.

‡ Of this work Mr. Forbes generally published 50,000 copies annually; for each of which he received a *plack*, or one third of an English penny.—[*Fountainhall's Dec.* vol. i. p. 273.]



awarded to him for the injury.\* Some years afterwards, this little work was attacked by James Paterson, weaver in Dublin, with scurrilous observations and indecent caricatures, which Mr. Forbes answered with this apposite proverb, "*Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest thou be like unto him.*"† He died about the year 1705, and was succeeded in the office of printer to the town and university, by Margaret Cuthbert, his widow.

After the commencement of the civil wars, in the reign of Charles I. the art of printing made no progress in Scotland, and it cannot be supposed that, for many years, it was a lucrative business to those who were embarked in it. During those civil commotions, the party in power endeavoured to crush, by every means, the freedom of the press. In the year 1648, the committee of estates passed an act, prohibiting the printing, under the *pain of death*, any book, declaration, or writing, until these were first submitted to their revisal.‡ Upon the restoration, the prohibition was renewed against printing, without licence

---

\* Fountainhall's Dec. vol. i. p. 273.

"EDINBURGH, 28th of February, 1684.—The Lords of his Majesty's right honourable Privy Council having considered the lybel and complaint persued by John Forbes, printer in Aberdeen, against Agnes Campbell, his Majesty's printer, and Patrick Tailzie, now her spouse, for his interest; and Robert Sanders, printer in Glasgow; for an injury done him in reprinting the Almanack of Aberdeen, printed by him; and the said Robert Sanders, not only re-printing thereof, but counterfeiting and affixing the Arms of Aberdeen thereto; with the Defenders' answers to the complaint, and Report of a Committee of their number, to whom the consideration of that affair was remitted; Do find that the said John Forbes hath been in use and possession of printing yearly an Almanack, as printer to the town and university of Aberdeen: and, therefore, allows and authorises him to continue to print the said Aberdeen Almanack, as he hath formerly been in use to do: and discharges the said Agnes Campbell, Robert Sanders, or any other printers in this kingdom, to reprint the same, at any time, or to affix the Town of Aberdeen's Arms thereto, in all time coming, as they will be answerable. Extracted by me,

"*Sic Sub.* WILL. PATERSON, *Cls. Sti. Consilii.*"

† Prognostication for 1685.

‡ The liberty of the press had been put a stop to, several years before, by the following act:—"At Edinburgh, the 26th June, 1648 yeires.—The Comittee of Estaits taking into their consideration the prejudices the publick service may suffer, throw the uncontrolled liberties that printers tak to thameselves, To print anie books, declarations, or other paipers q<sup>d</sup>somevir, that ar presented to thame, And fand it necessary, at this tyme, that some care war takin for ordering the course of printing, Doe, therefore, comand, discharge, and inhibite all and q<sup>d</sup>sum<sup>r</sup> printers, or others, having charge of printing irlines, or presses, That none presume, nor tak upone hand, to print anie books,

cence from the king, the parliament, or privy council; and those who presumed to publish seditious books, or had them in their possession, were punished with the utmost rigour. Gazettes, or newspapers, were, in particular, prohibited from being published, till they had been revised by the bishop of Edinburgh.\*

In Scotland the arts and sciences were yet in their infancy, and artists were scarcely known. Aberdeen, however, could boast of having, at an early period, given birth to the only distinguished painter who flourished in the country at the time, and was deservedly called the Apelles of Scotland.

George Jameson was born, at Aberdeen, about the latter end of the sixteenth century, the son of Andrew Jameson, burgess of guild, by Marjory Anderson, his spouse, who was the daughter of David Anderson, one of the magistrates of the town. He was endowed by nature with an uncommon genius for portrait painting, which he discovered at an early period of life. After passing through the usual course of education at the schools, and the college of the place, he went abroad, and studied at Antwerp, being fellow student with Vandyck, under the celebrated Rubens. Having made considerable proficiency in the art, he returned to his native city about the year 1620,† where he prosecuted portrait painting, and married a lady of the name of Isobell Tosh, by whom he had several sons and daughters. Although he was chiefly eminent for portraits, which were generally about the size of life, yet he not unfrequently applied his talent to miniature, and also to history and landscape. Every subject that passed under his pencil had all the life, proportion, and

delicacy

M M 2

---

declarations, or other paipers q<sup>2</sup>sumē<sup>2</sup>, untill first they present thame befor the Co<sup>m</sup>ittee of Estaits, under the pane of death. And ordand publication to be maid heiroy at the mercat croce of Edin-  
burgh, and other places neidfull; thairthrow nane pretend ignorance y<sup>2</sup>of.

“Extractum

ARCH. PRIMEROSSE, Clk”

\* Fountainhall's Dec. vol. i. p. 73.

† His residence was on the west side of the town. In the year 1635, he obtained, from the magistrates, a lease, during his life, of the ground called the Playfield, where the citizens, in ancient times, performed comedies. This he inclosed, and planted with shrubbery, at his own expence. It was afterwards given off, in feu, to John Alexander, his son-in-law.—[*Council Register*, vol. lii. p. 206. vol. liii. p. 36.]

delicacy, which are requisite to establish the reputation of an artist.

When King Charles visited Scotland, in the year 1633, the magistrates of Edinburgh employed Jameson to make paintings of the Scottish monarchs, which pleased so much his Majesty's taste, that he sat to him for his portrait, and rewarded him with a diamond ring from his finger. It is remarkable, that Jameson always painted his own portrait with his hat upon his head, probably in imitation of his master Rubens; or, perhaps, by his having been permitted to take that liberty when Charles sat to him for his portrait.

His reputation as a painter being established, he painted many portraits of King Charles, and of King James VI. as well as of the most eminent men who flourished in the beginning of the seventeenth century; and many of his works are to be found in the possession of the principal families in Scotland, at the present time. The greatest collection of these works is at Taymouth, the seat of the Earl of Breadalbane, whose ancestor, Sir John Campbell of Glenorchy, had been the chief and earliest patron of Jameson, who had accompanied him in his travels abroad.

All Jameson's sons died in early life. One of his daughters, Marjorie, was married to Mr. John Alexander, advocate; but we have not been informed of any thing which relates to their offspring. His daughter, Mary, whose numerous descendants are now living, was first married to Mr. Burnett of Elrick, in the county of Aberdeen; afterwards to James Gregory, the celebrated mathematician; and lastly to Mr. George Ædie, one of the magistrates of Aberdeen; by all of whom she had children. Many of the descendants of the two first marriages have numerous families, in the most respectable ranks of life.

Mary, who appears to have inherited a portion of her father's genius, displayed her taste in needle-work. Some specimens of her work, *Jephtha's rash vow*, *Susannah and the Elders*, &c. done in compartments, now decorate the east end of St. Nicholas church, over the magistrates' gallery, where they have remained for many years.

Mr.



Mr. Jameson died in Edinburgh, in the year 1644, possessed of a moderate fortune, which he had acquired by his industry, and left to his three daughters. He was buried in the Grayfriar's church-yard, but no monument distinguishes the place of his interment.

Among other eminent characters who were natives of Aberdeen, and flourished during this period, we have to mention James Gregory, who has been just noticed; the son of Mr. John Gregory, minister of Drumoak, by Janet Anderson, his spouse, who was the daughter of Mr. David Anderson\* of Finzeauch. Mr. Gregory was born in November, 1638; and was endowed with a genius for mathematics, which he early discovered. He prosecuted his studies at Marischal College, where he made considerable proficiency in that science. At the age of twenty-four, he published the *Optica Promota*, a work of great merit, in which he announced the invention of the reflecting telescope. This being one of the most valuable of modern discoveries, established his reputation in the scientific world. After the publication of this work, he visited Italy, and fixed his residence, for some years, at Padua, where he published, in 1667, *Vera Circuli, et Hyperboles Quadratura*, which contained another discovery of his own, namely, the invention of an infinitely converging series, for the areas of the circle and hyperbole. On his return to England, he was chosen a Fellow of the Royal Society. In the year 1668, he was appointed professor of mathematics in the university of St. Andrew's; and, some years afterwards, was called to the mathematical chair in the university of Edinburgh. He had not filled the office above a year, when, in October, 1673, being employed in shewing some of his pupils the satellites of Jupiter through a telescope, he was suddenly struck with total blindness, and died, a few days after, at the age of thirty-seven.

David

---

\* Mr. Anderson possessed an extraordinary genius for mechanical science. In the year 1618 he removed an immense stone, called *Knock Maitland*, which lay in the middle of the entry to the harbour of Aberdeen, and was a dangerous obstruction to shipping. The expense of the instruments and apparatus for the undertaking was 300 merks, which were contributed by the shipmasters, by the burgesses of guild, and by the corporations of artificers of the town. He was also architect at constructing the steeple of St. Nicholas Church, and placed the weather-cock upon it with his own hand.—[*Council Register*, vol. xlviii. p. 469.]

David Gregory, his nephew, also a native of Aberdeen, was born in the year 1661. He was eminently distinguished for his genius, and science in mathematics, and completed his education at the university of Edinburgh, where his promising merit was the means of promoting him to the mathematical chair. He published, in the same year, "*Exercitatio Geometrica de Dimensione Figurarum; sive Specimen Methodi Generalis dimetendi quasvis figuras.*" In 1691, on the report of Dr. Bernard's intention of resigning the Savilian professorship of astronomy at Oxford, he went to London, and being patronized by Sir Isaac Newton, and warmly befriended by Mr. Flamsteed, the astronomer-royal, he obtained the vacant professorship, for which Dr. Halley was a competitor. This rivalry, however, instead of animosity, laid the foundation of friendship between these eminent men; and Halley soon after became the colleague of Gregory, by obtaining the professorship of geometry in the same university.

In 1693, Mr. Gregory published, in the Philosophical Transactions, a resolution of the Florentine problem, "*De Testudine veliformi quadribili;*" and he continued to communicate to the public, from time to time, many ingenious mathematical papers, by the same channel. In 1695, he printed, at Oxford, "*Catoptricæ et Dioptricæ Sphericæ Elementa.*" In 1702, Mr. Gregory published, at Oxford, "*Astronomiæ Physicæ et Geometricæ Elementa;*" a work which is accounted his master-piece. He engaged, soon after, with his colleague Halley, in the publication of the Conics of Apollonius: but he had proceeded only a little way in this undertaking, when he died, in the forty-ninth year of his age, at Maidenhead, in Berkshire, in the year 1710.

While the citizens were suffering amidst the distresses occasioned by the civil war, they were visited by that grievous calamity the plague, which first made its appearance at Pitmuckstone, in the vicinity of the town, in the month of April, 1647. This contagious disease had been brought to that place by a woman who laboured under it, and had come from Brechin, where it was raging. By her intercourse with some of the inhabitants, the contagion was communicated,

nicated, spread with rapidity over the town, and carried off daily great numbers of the inhabitants. In the month of September, it had not abated its virulence, for the magistrates, probably seized with the dread of the infection, deemed it prudent to hold the meeting of the town council, for the annual election, at Gilcomstone; and from that time till the subsequent month of January, there was no divine service performed in the church. Meanwhile, those who were afflicted with the disease were removed to huts, constructed of wood, as hospitals for their reception, in the links, and at the Woolmanhill; where they were confined, and restrained, by a military guard, from mixing with the other inhabitants, under pain of the severest punishment. That this might not be deemed an empty threatening, a gibbet was erected, at the *court de guard*, for the immediate execution of offenders. In those hospitals, the patients were attended by several persons employed by the magistrates, under the name of *cleangers*, who prescribed to them such remedies as were known at the time. But the contagious disease appears to have baffled all their skill; no fewer than 1600 of the inhabitants of the town, and 140 in the villages of Futtie and Torrie, having fallen victims to its fury.\* The bodies of those who died in the links were buried in trenches, on the east side of the present rope works, and many others in the grounds near the windmill, and at the east end of the Castlehill, as well as in the Grayfriar's croft. In the month of November, 1648, the disease had not entirely disappeared. During this distressful period, the magistrates were necessitated to provide means for the support of the indigent inhabitants, who were under the infection; and the public funds being exhausted, they were compelled to have recourse to the gentry of the county for pecuniary assistance.† This is the last time the plague

---

\* Council Register, vol. liii. p. 130, et seq.—Gordon's History, vol. ii. p. 334.

† Treasury and Guildry Accounts.

Extracts from the Treasury and Guildry Accounts, of the expence incurred for the relief of the Inhabitants during the time of the pestilence.



plague raged in Aberdeen, after which, it would seem that the leprosy also had abated its virulence, and had gradually disappeared.

But these were not the only calamities which the citizens had to endure in this age. Towards the close of the seventeenth century, they were visited by famine, and experienced many of its horrors. The year 1695 was remarkable for stormy and rainy weather during the season of harvest. The crop was materially damaged, and scarcity and dearth were the natural consequences. The magistrates, to alleviate the distresses of the citizens, made great exertions to procure corn from various quarters, and deputed two of their number to repair to the south country for that purpose; but they could only obtain 500 bolls of wheat, which were but a temporary relief. Many of the inhabitants perished by want of sustenance, and 300 common brewers were reduced to indigence. The three subsequent years were equally unfavourable, and the crops extremely deficient, owing to storms and rain during the season of harvest. In the year 1698, the magistrates purchased, at the expence of the community, considerable quantities of meal, in different places; yet these did not supply the demands of the inhabitants,

many

---

| 1647    |                                                                                         | £.     | s. | d. |
|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|----|----|
| Dec. 9. | To James Graham, <i>cleanger</i> , for his services and attendance on the people        | 1086   | 10 | 0  |
| ...     | James Campbell, ditto ditto -                                                           | 121    | 6  | 0  |
| ...     | John Barclay, ditto ditto -                                                             | 26     | 13 | 4  |
| ...     | George Watt, ditto ditto -                                                              | 80     | 0  | 0  |
| ...     | Expence of burying the dead, and for 37,000 turfs to cover their graves, and carriage - | 153    | 6  | 8  |
| ...     | Expence of wood, for huts, in the Links, Castlehill, &c. -                              | 378    | 10 | 0  |
| ...     | Expence of constructing a <i>Court de Guard</i> in the Links -                          | 2      | 4  | 0  |
| ...     | Ditto, of a <i>double tree for a gibbet</i> , and for erecting it -                     | 2      | 15 | 0  |
| ...     | Ditto, of a pair of joggis upon it, and ten fathoms of ropes -                          | 2      | 9  | 4  |
| ...     | Captain John Duff, and the military, for guards -                                       | 820    | 11 | 0  |
| ...     | Expence of rosin, vinegar, and medicines -                                              | 125    | 2  | 4  |
| ...     | Ditto, for meal, and baking it into bread for the poor people -                         | 181    | 6  | 4  |
| ...     | Sir William Forbes of Craigievar, for 300 bolls of meal, at L.5 the boll                | 1500   | 0  | 0  |
| ...     | Lady Marischal, for meal -                                                              | 1366   | 16 | 6  |
| <hr/>   |                                                                                         |        |    |    |
|         |                                                                                         | £.5867 | 10 | 6  |

many of whom died on the streets.\* The price of a boll of bear was L.12, and of meal L.10 13s. 4d. It is a remarkable circumstance, that the same scarcity and dearth prevailed in the country during the last years of the sixteenth century.

Among other extraordinary occurrences in the town, in the course of this period, there may be mentioned, the deaths of two chief magistrates, while in office. William Gray, who had been provost subsequently to Michaelmas, in the year 1661, having died, in the month of January, 1663, was buried with military honours. As a mark of respect for his memory, one hundred and fifty of the citizens assembled, under arms, and accompanied the funeral to the churchyard, where they fired three volleys over the grave.† Gilbert Gray, who had, on repeated occasions, filled the office of provost, having died, in the month of August, 1667, two hundred of the citizens, to testify their regard for his memory, accompanied the funeral, under arms, to the grave, over which they fired three volleys. The great guns belonging to the town were also fired, both previous and subsequently to the interment.‡

In the time of peace, the good order and police of the town appears to have been well regulated, as far as the authority of the magistrates could be exercised. The wages of tradesmen, porters, and domestic servants, as well as the prices of provisions that were sold in the public markets, were fixed by acts of the town council, which were frequently renewed. For the protection and safety of the inhabitants during the night time, a number of the citizens were appointed alternately, as a watch; but they had no remuneration for their service, being obliged, when required by the magistrates, to watch and ward, on every occasion. The citizens were, by the municipal laws of the borough, ordained to give due attendance in the church, every Sunday, under the penalty of L.10; and prohibited from harbouring strangers, or extraneous beggars, within their  

n n
houses,

---

\* Council Register, vol. lvii. p. 524. 544. 622. 645. 686.

† Council Register, vol. liv. p. 410.

‡ Ibid. vol. lv. p. 33.

houses, under the penalty of L.20 ; while *curser*s, *swearer*s, and those who took the name of God in vain, especially on the public streets, were subject to punishment, at the discretion of the magistrates.

The streets within the ports, at the beginning of the eighteenth century, were, the Castlegate, Broadgate, Gallowgate, Upperkirkgate, Guestraw,\* parts of the Netherkirkgate,† and Shipraw. Without the ports, were the Green, Schoolhill, Dubbieraw, and parts of the Netherkirkgate, and Shipraw ; the Correction-wynd, Back-wynd,‡ and Putachieside. These streets were not only kept clean by scavengers, who were appointed by the magistrates, but the dirt and fulzie removed from the town every morning.

The population of Aberdeen, at different periods, during this age, may be ascertained, with tolerable precision, from the parish register of baptisms, to which we have already had occasion to resort for information on this subject. From the annexed table of births, made up from that register, it may be observed, that, for thirteen years preceding the year 1644, the annual average of births was 127.62 males, and 120.84 females ; the total number being 248.46. Assuming, therefore, according to our former principles, the annual average of births as the 35th part of the population, we may be allowed to estimate the whole, at the end of the year 1643, to have been 8750. For the decade, from the year 1648 to 1657, both inclusive, the annual average of births was 242. From 1659 to 1668, both inclusive, the annual average of births was only 205.1. From the year 1661 to 1678, 220.1 ; from 1679 to 1688, 194.4 ; from the year 1689 to 1698, 182 ; and from 1699 to 1708, both inclusive, we find that the annual  
average

---

\* The houses on the west side of the Guestraw belonged to the more respectable inhabitants ; and having superior accommodation to those in the other parts of the town, were generally appropriated to strangers of respectability, when they occasionally visited the town. Hence this street derived the name of Guestraw.

† These streets were properly called *gates*, from the circumstance of there being a port, or gate, near the extremity of each, except the Broadgate, which was distinguished, in ancient times, as a continuation of the Gallowgate.

‡ The Back-wynd was laid out by the Magistrates, and opened in the year 1594 ; and the Correction-wynd about the year 1636.



average was only 155.9; which would make the population, at this period, to have been only 5556.5.

The inference to be drawn from these circumstances is, that the population of Aberdeen had been gradually increasing, previous to the commencement of the civil war; and that, subsequently to that event, it had decreased, in the same manner, towards the epocha of the union of the two kingdoms. On the whole, the population of the town, in the year 1643, may be estimated to have been 9000; and, at the union, only 6000 persons, of all ages.

We shall annex to this chapter, a table of the prices of provisions, and other commodities; and also of the fiars of the county of Aberdeen, for certain years of this period, extracted from the records of the Sheriff Court; with the other tables, to which we have had occasion to refer, in the course of this section of the chapter.

## TABLE OF THE PRINCIPAL FUNDS,

DEvised IN MORTMAIN, BY BENEVOLENT INDIVIDUALS,

FOR CHARITABLE PURPOSES, AND PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS,

IN THE COURSE OF THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY;

*Of which the Magistrates and Town Council are Trustees and Guardians.*

|                           |                                                                                                                                        | <i>Marks<br/>Scottish.</i> |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1617                      | Dr. Duncan Liddel, for Professor of Mathematics, besides the Lands of Pitmedden - - - - -                                              | 12,000                     |
|                           | Dr. James Cargil, for four Bursaries at the College - - - - -                                                                          | 4,000                      |
|                           | Mr. Patrick Copland, for the Professor of Divinity ditto - - - - -                                                                     | 4,000                      |
|                           | David Chalmerlane ditto - - - - -                                                                                                      | 1,000                      |
|                           | John Johnston, for one Bursarie ditto - - - - -                                                                                        | 1,000                      |
|                           | Mr. Thomas Reid, Secretary to King James VI. for Bibliothecar in the College - - - - -                                                 | 3,722                      |
| 1622                      | Margaret Rolland, to the Poor of the Town - - - - -                                                                                    | 200                        |
| 1623                      | Provost Nicholson, for behoof of the Poor - - - - -                                                                                    | 600                        |
| 1628                      | William Duncan, for the Poor and Church of Futtie - - - - -                                                                            | 200                        |
| 1630                      | Mathew Anderson, to the Guild Brethren - - - - -                                                                                       | 500                        |
| 1631                      | William Gray, to the Guild Brethren's Hospital, and Poor - - - - -                                                                     | 2,000                      |
| 1632                      | William Johnston, M.D. for behoof of the Poor - - - - -                                                                                | 1,000                      |
| 1633                      | Marion Douglas, Lady Drum, for Widows, and aged Virgins - - - - -                                                                      | 3,000                      |
| 1634                      | Jean Guild, to poor Widows and Virgins - - - - -                                                                                       | 500                        |
|                           | Dr. Patrick Dun, his Lands of Ferryhill, for the Masters of the Grammar School                                                         |                            |
| 1635                      | James Troup, to Guild Brethren's Hospital - - - - -                                                                                    | 700                        |
| 1636                      | Isobel Coutts, to the Poor and Church of Futtie - - - - -                                                                              | 500                        |
| 1637                      | William Gray, to the Church, and Guild Box - - - - -                                                                                   | 1,000                      |
| 1640                      | George Davidson, to the Church of Futtie - - - - -                                                                                     | 350                        |
|                           | (Besides his Lands of Pettins, for the Ministers' Stipends, &c. &c.)                                                                   |                            |
| 1642                      | Lady Rothiemay, for support of Schoolmistresses - - - - -                                                                              | 1,000                      |
| 1644                      | Sir Thomas Crombie of Kennay, for a Minister to Greyfriars Church, &c. - - - - -                                                       | 32,000                     |
| 1645                      | Robert Johnston of Stain, for employing poor people in trade - - - - -                                                                 | 10,800                     |
|                           | George Robertson, for Bursaries in the Grammar School, to the Fabric of St. Nicholas Kirk, Guild Brethren, &c. - - - - -               | 1,550                      |
|                           | William Forbes, for the use of the Guild Box - - - - -                                                                                 | 1,000                      |
| 1647                      | George Cochran, for decayed Brethren of Guild - - - - -                                                                                | 270                        |
| 1649                      | Jean Guild, widow of David Anderson of Finzeanch, for ten poor Orphans, besides the Blackfriars Manse, &c. in the Schoolhill - - - - - | 4,700                      |
| 1656                      | Dr. Alex. Ross, for poor Scholars, at the Grammar School and College - - - - -                                                         | 3,600                      |
| Carried forward - - - - - |                                                                                                                                        | 91,192                     |

|      |                                                                                                       |   |   | <i>Merks<br/>Scottish.</i>         |
|------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|------------------------------------|
|      | Brought forward                                                                                       | - | - | 91,192                             |
| 1658 | Dr. William Guild, Minister, for poor Orphans                                                         | - | - | 7,000                              |
|      | John Shand, of Rotterdam, for the Kirk, &c.                                                           | - | - | 500                                |
| 1659 | George Morison, Provost, for behoof of the Poor                                                       | - | - | 1,000                              |
| 1661 | Katharine Rolland, widow of Dr. Guild, the Lands of Milltown of Murthill, &c.<br>for various purposes |   |   |                                    |
|      | Robert Cruickshank, to the Guild Box                                                                  | - | - | 2,500                              |
|      |                                                                                                       |   |   | <hr/>                              |
|      |                                                                                                       |   |   | <i>Merks</i> .....102,192          |
|      |                                                                                                       |   |   | <i>Or Sterling</i> .....L.5677 6 8 |

### TABLE OF ASSESSMENTS ON THE CITIZENS,

*For the Stipends of the Ministers, for the Support of the Poor of the Town, and other  
Public Purposes,*

BY ORDER OF THE HEAD-COURTS,

FROM A.D. 1634 TO A.D. 1707.

|      |                                                                                                                                             |                             |
|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1634 | For the ordinary Taxation of the Town, and the extraordinary, being two<br>in ten, for three years, compounded with the Marquis of Hamilton | <i>Scottish Money.</i>      |
|      | vol. lii. p. 166                                                                                                                            | L.36,666 13 4               |
| 1635 | The Lords of Council and Session                                                                                                            | 205 888 16 11               |
| 1636 | Ditto ditto                                                                                                                                 | 243 444 8 10                |
| 1638 | For the three Ministers' Stipends, and the common Poor                                                                                      | 1,466 13 4                  |
| 1639 | ... arms, pikes, and ammunition, from the Marquis of Huntly                                                                                 | 451 3,079 4 0               |
|      | ... charge of expedition against the Laird of Banff, by command of the<br>Earl of Montrose, &c.                                             | 465 6,666 13 4              |
|      | To the army of the nobility, to prevent the town from being plundered                                                                       | 410. 484 4,666 13 4         |
| 1640 | For 10 merks of every 100 merks of yearly rent, trade, &c.                                                                                  |                             |
| 1642 | ... the three Ministers' Stipends, and the common Poor                                                                                      | 1361 4,400 0 0              |
| 1650 | ... the town's proportion of 80,000 merks, assessed on the boroughs, in<br>lieu of service of foot soldiers                                 | vol. liii. p. 272 2,000 0 0 |
|      | ... deficiencies in raising men to Colonel George Keith                                                                                     | 314 834 6 8                 |
|      | ... the town's proportion of 200,000 merks, for purchasing 1000 bolls of<br>meal for the army                                               | 314 2,144 0 0               |
|      | ... half an year's Interest of the town's public debt of L.40,000                                                                           | 949 4,620 0 0               |
|      | ... transportation of three Ministers to the town, and their yearly Stipends                                                                | 950 1,000 0 0               |
|      | ... part of the loan money and taxation, for levying the army for the ex-<br>pedition to England                                            | 1180 12,266 13 4            |
|      | ... the support of Major-General Urry's army                                                                                                | 1337 4,000 0 0              |
|      | Carried forward                                                                                                                             | L.85,144 3 1                |



| Brought forward |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                 |                  | -      | L.85,144 | 3 | 1 |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|--------|----------|---|---|
| 1661            | For the proportion of the cess, for two months, of L.12,000, imposed on the boroughs, for the Lords of Session                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | -               | vol. liv. p. 308 | 3,600  | 0        | 0 |   |
| 1667            | ... the monthly assessment imposed by Parliament                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | -               | 55               | 800    | 0        | 0 |   |
|                 | ... the taxation to the King                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | -               | ib.              | 1,466  | 13       | 4 |   |
|                 | ... the price of six iron cannon, purchased from the Earl Marischal                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | -               | ib.              | 1,333  | 6        | 8 |   |
|                 | ... the deficiency of the town's proportion of the Excise                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | -               | 16               | 1,333  | 6        | 8 |   |
| 1668            | ... the Interest on the <i>Mortifications</i> , and for Ministers' Stipends, for the same purpose                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | -               | 55. 58           | 6,666  | 13       | 4 |   |
| 1669            | Ditto ditto                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | -               | 163              | 6,666  | 13       | 4 |   |
| 1670            | Ditto ditto                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | -               | 248              | 6,666  | 13       | 4 |   |
| 1671            | Ditto ditto                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | -               | 357              | 6,666  | 13       | 4 |   |
| 1674            | Ditto ditto                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | -               | 586              | 13,333 | 6        | 8 |   |
| 1675            | ... the re-payment of Monies due to the <i>Mortifications</i> , arrears of Excise, Ministers' Stipends, Town's Militia Company's Charge                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | vol. lvi. p. 66 | 10,000           | 0      | 0        |   |   |
| 1677            | ... the same purpose                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | -               | 208              | 16,000 | 0        | 0 |   |
| 1678            | ... the following purposes, namely—for Interest of Money due to the Guild Brethren's Hospital, <i>Mortifications</i> , &c. contracted in the time of the civil war; for preserving the Town from being plundered and burnt; and for the support of the people in the time of the plague, thirty-one years ago; deficiency of the Excise; and for supplies to the Town's Militia Company | -               | 322. 324         | 12,000 | 0        | 0 |   |
| 1679            | ... the King's Subsidy, &c.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | -               | 437              | 4,200  | 0        | 0 |   |
| 1680            | ... the same purpose                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | -               | 529              | 4,200  | 0        | 0 |   |
| 1681            | Ditto                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | -               | 659              | 4,200  | 0        | 0 |   |
| 1682            | Ditto                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | -               | vol. lvii. p. 50 | 4,200  | 0        | 0 |   |
| 1683            | Ditto                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | -               | 108              | 4,200  | 0        | 0 |   |
| 1685            | Ditto, and for Ministers' Stipends and Contingencies                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | -               | 204              | 6,666  | 13       | 4 |   |
| 1686            | Ditto ditto                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | -               | 249              | 6,666  | 13       | 4 |   |
| 1688            | Ditto ditto                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | -               | 277              | 6,666  | 13       | 4 |   |
| 1689            | Ditto ditto                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | -               | 308              | 6,666  | 13       | 4 |   |
| 1690            | Ditto ditto                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | -               | 342              | 6,666  | 13       | 4 |   |
| 1691            | Ditto ditto                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | -               | 360              | 10,000 | 0        | 0 |   |
| 1693            | Ditto ditto                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | -               | 422              | 14,000 | 0        | 0 |   |
| 1694            | Ditto ditto                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | -               | 456              | 8,000  | 0        | 0 |   |
| 1695            | Ditto ditto                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | -               | 494              | 8,000  | 0        | 0 |   |
| 1696            | Ditto ditto                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | -               | 538              | 11,000 | 0        | 0 |   |
| 1697            | Ditto ditto                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | -               | 610              | 11,000 | 0        | 0 |   |
| 1698            | Ditto ditto                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | -               | 674              | 11,000 | 0        | 0 |   |
| 1699            | Ditto ditto                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | -               | 722              | 13,000 | 0        | 0 |   |
| 1701            | Ditto ditto                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | -               | 782              | 12,000 | 0        | 0 |   |
|                 | Ditto ditto                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | -               | 813              | 12,500 | 0        | 0 |   |
| 1702            | Ditto ditto                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | -               | 842              | 10,000 | 0        | 0 |   |
| 1704            | Ditto ditto                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | -               | 893              | 8,000  | 0        | 0 |   |
| 1707            | Ditto ditto                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | -               | 58. 82           | 9,000  | 0        | 0 |   |

L.363,510 16 5

TABLE

## TABLE OF BIRTHS IN ABERDEEN,

*For the several Periods after-mentioned.*

| YEAR.          | BIRTHS. |          | TOTAL. | YEAR.                                                                                            | BIRTHS. |          | TOTAL. |
|----------------|---------|----------|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|----------|--------|
|                | Males.  | Females. |        |                                                                                                  | Males.  | Females. |        |
| 1631           | 126     | 99       | 225    | 1669                                                                                             | 93      | 125      | 218    |
| 1632           | 135     | 119      | 254    | 1670                                                                                             | 122     | 113      | 235    |
| 1633           | 123     | 117      | 240    | 1671                                                                                             | 110     | 109      | 219    |
| 1634           | 128     | 109      | 237    | 1672                                                                                             | 102     | 103      | 205    |
| 1635           | 105     | 124      | 229    | 1673                                                                                             | 131     | 107      | 238    |
| 1636           | 114     | 125      | 239    | 1674                                                                                             | 116     | 103      | 219    |
| 1637           | 139     | 119      | 258    | 1675                                                                                             | 111     | 105      | 216    |
| 1638           | 131     | 127      | 258    | 1676                                                                                             | 122     | 93       | 215    |
| 1639           | 138     | 109      | 247    | 1677                                                                                             | 125     | 105      | 230    |
| 1640           | 149     | 147      | 296    | 1678                                                                                             | 100     | 106      | 206    |
| 1641           | 126     | 120      | 246    | <i>Average</i>                                                                                   | 1132    | 1069     | 2201   |
| 1642           | 139     | 131      | 270    |                                                                                                  | 113.2   | 106.9    | 220.1  |
| 1643           | 116     | 135      | 251    | YEAR.                                                                                            |         |          |        |
| <i>Average</i> | 1669    | 1581     | 3250   |                                                                                                  |         |          |        |
|                | 127.62  | 120.84   | 248.46 | 1679                                                                                             | 117     | 122      | 239    |
| YEAR.          |         |          |        | 1680                                                                                             | 100     | 110      | 210    |
|                |         |          |        | 1681                                                                                             | 97      | 103      | 200    |
|                |         |          |        | 1682                                                                                             | 93      | 106      | 199    |
|                |         |          |        | 1683                                                                                             | 95      | 102      | 197    |
|                |         |          |        | 1684                                                                                             | 97      | 126      | 223    |
|                |         |          |        | 1685                                                                                             | 90      | 82       | 172    |
|                |         |          |        | 1686                                                                                             | 120     | 93       | 213    |
|                |         |          |        | 1687                                                                                             | 91      | 92       | 183    |
|                |         |          |        | 1688                                                                                             | 57      | 51       | 108    |
|                |         |          |        | <i>Average</i>                                                                                   | 957     | 987      | 1944   |
|                |         |          |        |                                                                                                  | 95.7    | 98.7     | 194.4  |
|                |         |          |        | YEAR.                                                                                            |         |          |        |
|                |         |          |        |                                                                                                  |         |          |        |
| YEAR.          |         |          |        | 1689                                                                                             | 108     | 85       | 193    |
|                |         |          |        | 1690                                                                                             | 99      | 73       | 172    |
|                |         |          |        | 1691                                                                                             | 95      | 75       | 170    |
|                |         |          |        | 1692                                                                                             | 99      | 98       | 197    |
|                |         |          |        | 1693                                                                                             | 115     | 95       | 210    |
|                |         |          |        | 1694                                                                                             | 115     | 82       | 197    |
|                |         |          |        | 1695                                                                                             | 90      | 89       | 179    |
|                |         |          |        | 1696                                                                                             | 75      | 96       | 171    |
|                |         |          |        | 1697                                                                                             | 85      | 92       | 177    |
|                |         |          |        | 1698                                                                                             | 73      | 81       | 154    |
|                |         |          |        | <i>Average</i>                                                                                   | 954     | 866      | 1820   |
|                |         |          |        |                                                                                                  | 95.4    | 86.6     | 182.   |
| <i>Average</i> | 1018    | 1033     | 2051   | The average of Births, from the year 1698 to 1708, was 80.3 males, 75.6 females—in whole, 155.9. |         |          |        |
|                |         |          |        |                                                                                                  |         |          |        |
|                | 101.8   | 103.3    | 205.1  |                                                                                                  |         |          |        |

## TABLE OF PRICES

OF

SUNDRY ARTICLES OF PROVISIONS, AND OTHER COMMODITIES, &amp;c.

AT DIFFERENT PERIODS, FROM A.D. 1633 TO A.D. 1707.

|      |                                                                       | <i>Scottish Money.</i> |    |          |
|------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|----|----------|
|      |                                                                       | £.                     | s. | d.       |
| 1634 | Scottish pint of ale                                                  | -                      | -  | 0 1 8    |
|      | Loaf of flour, weighing nine ounces                                   | -                      | -  | 0 1 0    |
| 1635 | Scottish pint of ale                                                  | -                      | -  | 0 2 6    |
| 1638 | Ditto                                                                 | -                      | -  | 0 1 4    |
|      | Loaf of flour, weighing eleven ounces                                 | -                      | -  | 0 1 0    |
|      | Horse hire, the mile                                                  | -                      | -  | 0 1 6    |
| 1639 | Scottish pint of ale                                                  | -                      | -  | 0 1 2    |
|      | Loaf of flour, weighing fourteen ounces                               | -                      | -  | 0 1 0    |
|      | Double-soled Mens' and Women's Shoes, the inch                        | -                      | -  | 0 2 0    |
|      | Ditto, second sort, the inch                                          | -                      | -  | 0 1 8    |
| 1640 | Scottish pint of ale                                                  | -                      | -  | 0 1 4    |
|      | Loaf of flour, weighing twelve ounces                                 | -                      | -  | 0 1 0    |
| 1641 | Admission dues of a burgess of guild                                  | -                      | -  | 200 0 0  |
| 1642 | Pound weight of candle                                                | -                      | -  | 0 4 6    |
| 1643 | Loaf of rye, weighing sixteen ounces                                  | -                      | -  | 0 1 0    |
|      | Boll of rye meal                                                      | -                      | -  | 7 0 0    |
|      | Loaf of flour, weighing twelve ounces                                 | -                      | -  | 0 1 0    |
|      | Scottish pint of ale                                                  | -                      | -  | 0 1 4    |
| 1648 | Admission dues of a burgess of guild                                  | -                      | -  | 266 13 4 |
|      | Wages of wrights, without meat or drink, per day                      | -                      | -  | 0 13 4   |
|      | Daily servants, ditto                                                 | -                      | -  | 0 10 0   |
|      | Wages of best Women servants, half-yearly, and for shoes and bounties | -                      | -  | 5 0 0    |
|      | Second servants, L.2 of money, and L.2 for shoes, &c.                 | -                      | -  | 4 0 0    |
| 1649 | Pound weight of candle                                                | -                      | -  | 0 5 0    |
|      | Scottish pint of ale                                                  | -                      | -  | 0 2 0    |
|      | Pair of double-soled shoes, of foreign leather, the inch              | -                      | -  | 0 3 0    |
|      | Ditto of Scottish leather, do.                                        | -                      | -  | 0 2 0    |
| 1656 | Loaf of flour, weighing fourteen ounces                               | -                      | -  | 0 1 0    |
|      | Scottish pint of ale                                                  | -                      | -  | 0 2 0    |
|      | Stone of rough tallow                                                 | -                      | -  | 3 0 0    |
|      | Stone of molten tallow                                                | -                      | -  | 4 0 0    |
|      | Pound weight of candle                                                | -                      | -  | 0 4 6    |
|      | Best Mutton bouk                                                      | -                      | -  | 1 16 0   |
|      | Second sort do.                                                       | -                      | -  | 1 6 8    |
|      | Best Ox beef                                                          | -                      | -  | 12 0 0   |
|      | Second sort                                                           | -                      | -  | 9 0 0    |
|      | Best Cow Beef                                                         | -                      | -  | 9 0 0    |



*Scottish Money.*

|      |                                                                                               |   |   |   |   |   |   | £. | s. | d. |
|------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|
| 1656 | Second sort                                                                                   | - | - | - | - | - | - | 6  | 0  | 0  |
|      | Coopers, for the price, and packing each barrel of salmon                                     | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3  | 0  | 0  |
|      | Double girding                                                                                | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0  | 6  | 8  |
|      | Blacksmiths, for each stone of iron, wrought                                                  | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1  | 8  | 0  |
|      | Weavers, for each ell of plaiden, with a peck of meal to the score                            | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0  | 0  | 8  |
|      | Master Slaters, each day                                                                      | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1  | 0  | 0  |
|      | Servants                                                                                      | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0  | 12 | 0  |
|      | Masons, weekly                                                                                | - | - | - | - | - | - | 4  | 13 | 4  |
|      | Wages to best Women Servants, half-yearly, and for shoes and bounties                         | - | - | - | - | - | - | 5  | 0  | 0  |
|      | Second ditto                                                                                  | - | - | - | - | - | - | 4  | 0  | 0  |
| 1695 | Loaf of flour, weighing twelve ounces                                                         | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0  | 1  | 0  |
|      | A pound of candle                                                                             | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0  | 4  | 0  |
|      | Best Mutton bouk                                                                              | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1  | 6  | 8  |
|      | Second sort                                                                                   | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1  | 0  | 0  |
|      | Best Ox beef                                                                                  | - | - | - | - | - | - | 12 | 0  | 0  |
|      | Second sort                                                                                   | - | - | - | - | - | - | 8  | 0  | 0  |
|      | Best Cow beef                                                                                 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 10 | 0  | 0  |
|      | Second sort                                                                                   | - | - | - | - | - | - | 7  | 0  | 0  |
|      | Best Ox hide                                                                                  | - | - | - | - | - | - | 5  | 0  | 0  |
|      | Second sort                                                                                   | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3  | 6  | 8  |
|      | A pair of double soled shoes, of foreign leather, timber or leather heels, $\frac{7}{8}$ inch | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0  | 3  | 0  |
|      | Ditto of Scottish leather, ditto                                                              | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0  | 2  | 0  |
|      | Slaters' wages, each day, without meat                                                        | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0  | 16 | 0  |
|      | Masons' ditto ditto                                                                           | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0  | 13 | 4  |
|      | Wrights' ditto ditto                                                                          | - | - | - | - | - | - | 0  | 15 | 6  |

## TABLE OF THE FIARS OF THE COUNTY OF ABERDEEN,

FOR THE YEARS UNDER-MENTIONED, IN STERLING MONEY.

|                             | 1649.    | 1650.    | 1651.    | 1652.    | 1666.     | 1667.    |
|-----------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|
| Great Oats, with fodder ... | L.0 13 4 | L.0 11 8 | L.0 11 1 | L.0 11 8 | L.0 7 2   | L.0 9 1  |
| —without fodder...          | 0 11 8   | 0 10 0   | 0 10 0   | 0 11 1   | 0 6 1     | 0 8 4    |
| Bear, with fodder ...       | 0 15 0   | 0 13 10  | 0 13 10  | 0 13 4   | 0 7 2     | 0 10 0   |
| — without fodder            | 0 13 4   | 0 13 4   | 0 12 1   | 0 11 10  | 0 6 8     | 0 8 10   |
| White Meal ...              | 0 13 4   | 0 13 4   | 0 13 4   | 0 11 8   | 0 6 8     | 0 9 0    |
| Malt ...                    | 0 11 8   | 0 13 10  | 0 13 10  | 0 11 8   | 0 6 8     | 0 8 10   |
| Pease ...                   | 0 13 4   | 0 12 9   | 0 12 1   | 0 17 1   | 0 6 8     | 0 8 10   |
| Wheat ...                   | 0 18 4   | 1 0 0    | 0 18 4   | 1 0 0    | 0 10 0    | 0 10 0   |
| Rye ...                     | 0 12 1   | 0 11 1   | 0 10 0   | 0 10 0   | 0 5 6     | 0 6 8    |
|                             | 1668.    | 1669.    | 1670.    | 1692.    | 1693.     | 1694.    |
| Great Oats, with fodder ... | L.0 6 8  | L.0 7 2  | L.0 8 10 | L.0 7 9  | L.0 7 1   | L.0 11 4 |
| —without fodder...          | 0 5 6    | 0 6 1    | 0 8 10   | 0 6 8    | 0 6 8     | 0 6 10   |
| Bear, with fodder ...       | 0 8 4    | 0 8 4    | 0 9 5    | 0 7 9    | 0 7 1     | 0 9 5    |
| — without fodder            | 0 7 1    | 0 6 11   | 0 8 4    | 0 6 8    | 0 6 8     | 0 8 10   |
| White Meal ...              | 0 6 8    | 0 6 11   | 0 8 4    | 0 6 10   | 0 7 1     | 0 8 10   |
| Malt ...                    | 0 6 8    | 0 6 11   | 0 8 4    | 0 6 8    | 0 6 8     | 0 8 4    |
| Pease ...                   | 0 8 4    | 0 7 9    | 0 8 4    | 0 8 10   | 0 8 10    | 0 8 10   |
| Wheat ...                   | 0 10 0   | 0 10 0   | 0 11 8   | 0 11 1   | 0 11 8    | 0 15 0   |
| Rye ...                     | 0 6 8    | 0 5 6    | 0 6 4    | 0 6 8    | 0 6 8     | 0 6 8    |
|                             | 1695.    | 1696.    | 1697.    | 1698.    | 1699.     | 1700.    |
| Great Oats, with fodder ... | L.0 16 8 | L.0 13 4 | L.0 15 0 | L.0 18 4 | L.0 13 10 | L.0 11 1 |
| —without fodder...          | 0 15 6   | 0 13 4   | 0 13 4   | 0 16 8   | 0 13 4    | 0 10 10  |
| Bear, with fodder ...       | 0 16 8   | 0 14 5   | 0 18 4   | 1 0 0    | 0 16 8    | 0 11 8   |
| — without fodder            | 0 15 6   | 0 14 5   | 0 16 8   | 0 11 8   | 0 15 6    | 0 11 1   |
| White Meal ...              | 0 16 8   | 0 13 4   | 0 15 0   | 1 0 0    | 0 15 0    | 0 11 1   |
| Malt ...                    | 0 15 6   | 0 14 5   | 0 16 8   | 0 18 4   | 0 13 4    | 0 11 1   |
| Pease ...                   | 0 16 8   | 0 15 0   | 0 16 8   | 1 3 4    | 0 16 8    | 0 13 4   |
| Wheat ...                   | 1 5 6    | 0 15 6   | 1 3 4    | 1 5 6    | 1 5 6     | 0 18 4   |
| Rye ...                     | 0 13 4   | 0 10 0   | 0 13 4   | 0 16 8   | 0 12 9    | 0 8 10   |

*N.B. Fractions under pence have been purposely omitted.*

## CHAPTER VI.

*Accession of George I. to the throne of Britain—Rebellion, 1715, and proceedings in Aberdeen—Fire in the Gallorgate—Rigour of the season, 1740, with scarcity and dearth—Great Fire in the Broadgate—Traffick of Kidnapping—Rebellion, 1745—Rebels in possession of the Town, &c.—Military riots—Scarcity, 1782—Borough politics, in 1752, 1783, and 1817—and various other occurrences.*

FROM A.D. 1710 TO A.D. 1818.

GEORGE, the eldest son of Ernest Augustus, Duke of Hanover, A.D. 1714. by the Princess Sophia, the only child of the King of Bohemia,\* succeeded to the crown of Great Britain, on the death of Queen Anne; and was proclaimed, with the usual ceremonies, sovereign of the British dominions. Although he ascended the throne without opposition, or any indications of popular discontent, yet the dissensions in Scotland, produced by the union of the kingdoms, which was deemed by many a national grievance, had never been entirely done away; and conspiracies had been forming, both in England and Scotland, against his succession. The house of Stuart had, in those kingdoms, many adherents, who were known by the name of Jacobites, and still entertained sanguine expectations of being able to restore that family to the throne. These had neglected no opportunity to form designs against the king, and to concert measures for open rebellion, which speedily broke out in Scotland.

The Earl of Mar, who was, at this time, a powerful chieftain in the north, had continued his attachment to the exiled family of Stuart; and his influence among his vassals and dependents enabled  
 o o 2 him

---

\* The Princess Elizabeth, eldest daughter of James VI. was married to the Elector Palatine, afterwards King of Bohemia; and the Princess Sophia was the only surviving child of that marriage. By the treaty of union, the succession was settled on her and her heirs, after the death of Queen Anne, whose father, James VII. died at St. Germain's, 6th Sept. 1701.



A.D. 1715. him to raise a small body of men, whom he assembled at Braemar, in the highland district of the county of Aberdeen. He there proclaimed the Chevalier de St. George, the only son of the late King James, sovereign of Britain, by the title of King James VIII. and, flattering himself with the hope of being joined by a numerous body of nobles and barons who were inimical to the established government, determined to try his fortune in the field. Many of the Jacobites flocked to his standard, and his army was soon augmented to 10,000 men. Meanwhile, the adherents of the prince pretender, under the delusive expectation that his presence might produce an immediate revolution, pressed him to come to Britain, without delay. Mar assumed the title of Lieutenant-General of his forces, and made every preparation for the commencement of hostilities.

While these things were transacting, the magistrates of Aberdeen, who were zealous supporters of the established government, having early intelligence of the designs of the Earl of Mar, adopted measures of precaution for the safety of the town, lest an attack upon it should be attempted by the insurgents. The citizens were armed, the ports secured, and cannon planted where it was most exposed. But these exertions do not seem to have met with any support from government; for an order was transmitted, by the Lord Justice Clerk, requiring them to deliver up, for the use of his Majesty's troops, the whole gunpowder in the town, for which the merchants were to be paid at the rate of L.3 6s. 8d. sterling, each hundred weight.\* The town being thus in a manner deprived of the means of defence, was exposed, not only to the insurgents, but to the disaffected part of the community.

The Earl of Mar having advanced, with his clans, southward, formed a camp at Perth, where he was joined by many barons, and others, who adhered to the interest of the prince pretender; and the greatest part of the north was under the influence of the Jacobites. Their partisans having now acquired the ascendancy in the town, assumed its civil government, under pretence of authority from the Earl Marischal,

---

\* The quantity delivered up was 3681 $\frac{3}{4}$  pounds weight.—[*Council Register*, vol. lviii. p. 415.]

Marischal, who arrived upon the 28th September, with a squadron of horse, and proclaimed, with the usual ceremonies, the pretender, king of the British dominions. This being the ordinary day of the annual election, the magistrates and council thought proper to absent themselves, without choosing the new counsellors for the ensuing year; but such of the burgesses as were inimical to the established government, soon supplied this defect. They assembled, on the subsequent day, in the East church, in consequence of an order from Earl Marischal; and, by a poll of those qualified to vote, formed an administration\* suited to their own views. Among the first acts of the administrators, so elected, was an imposition, under the sanction of a head court, of a contribution of L.200 10s. 9d. sterling, upon the inhabitants, towards the charge of supplies for the pretender's army, pursuant to an order of the Earl of Mar. In a few days after, a similar contribution of L.2000 sterling, under the denomination of a loan, was imposed for the same purpose, of which L.500 were ordered to be immediately levied. About the same time, a requisition was made to supply Mar's army with 300 Lochaber axes, and to furnish him with a printing press, types, and apparatus, which were immediately transmitted to Perth.†

The army of the pretender being joined by the northern clans, under the Earl of Seaforth, and others, their partisans, the Earl of Mar broke up his camp at Perth, and resolved to pass the Frith, to form a junction with the Jacobites in the south, and to march into England. He had proceeded as far as Auchterarder upon the 11th November, when, having received intelligence that the Duke of Argyll, with the royal army under his command, had taken the field, and was advancing from Lothian to Stirling, he reviewed his army, and took up his position at that place. The Duke determined to give him battle in the neighbourhood of Dumblane, passed the Forth, at Stirling, on the 12th, and encamped, with his left at that village, and his right towards Sheriffmoor. The Earl having advanced

---

\* The magistrates elected, on this occasion, were, Patrick Bannerman, provost; John Leslie, John Burnett, William Simpson, and James Fyfe, baillies.—[*Council Register*, vol. lviii. p. 419.]

† *Council Register*, vol. lviii. p. 413, et seq. 423, 428.

A.D. 1715. advanced within two miles of his position, remained there until the next morning, in order of battle. The armies met, and a severe conflict ensued, in which there was great loss on both sides; but the battle being indecisive, the rebels retreated to the Roman camp, at Ardoch, a few miles distant, and the Duke's army drew off towards Dumblane; both generals having claimed the victory.

Such was the situation of affairs, when the pretender arrived at Peterhead, from France, on 22d December, accompanied by a retinue of six gentlemen. He passed through Aberdeen, *incognito*, to Fetteresso, where he was received with the highest marks of respect, by the Earl of Mar, the Earl Marischal, and about thirty other noblemen and gentlemen, who had zealously embraced his cause, and now testified to himself their sincerity. He afterwards published several proclamations and manifestos, on various topics; and transmitted orders to the ministers of Aberdeen to pray for him, by the title of King James; but these orders do not seem to have been regarded.\* The professors of King's and Marischal Colleges, however, under the common delusive impressions of the time, thought proper to attend him at Fetteresso, and to present a loyal address, which they had soon cause to regret; for, after the suppression of the rebellion, they were, for this officious and inconsiderate display of their zeal, dismissed from their offices.

The administration of the town being now in the hands of those who were attached to the pretender, the magistrates, with a view to convince him of their devotion to his person, and zeal for his service, resolved to raise a troop of horse, in number thirty, to be well provided with arms and accoutrements, and to be attached to the Earl Marischal's squadron. The estimated charge of this undertaking, being L.333 6s. 8d. sterling, was ordered, under the authority of a head court, to be assessed upon the inhabitants. In order to entice young men to engage in this service, they were promised the freedom of the town on their return.† The troop, however, was never raised, although the usual complement of officers was appointed. About the  
same

---

\* Council Register, vol. lviii. p. 428.

† Ibid. vol. lviii. p. 446. 449.



same time, these magistrates delivered up to the Marquis of Huntly A.D. 1715. four of the cannon belonging to the town, with their carriages, for the service of the rebels; but this nobleman soon abandoned their cause, and submitted to King George.

The affairs of the pretender began soon to decline. While the royal army was receiving daily augmentations by Dutch auxiliaries, his army was diminishing in numbers every day, by the clans and their chieftains dropping off. The pretender having, at length, found, that he had engaged in a desperate undertaking, returned to France, and rebellion languished and expired. The remains of his army retreated northward, under the command of General Gordon of Auchintoul, who had formerly been in the Russian service, passed through Aberdeen, continued their route through Strathdon and Strathspey, and quietly dispersed among the hills of Badenoch.

The Duke of Argyle, who pursued with the royal army, was un- 1716. able to overtake the rear guard of the rebels, under the Earl Marischal. Indeed, he does not appear to have made any extraordinary exertions to do so; for his army halted at Aberdeen, and part of it remained there for some considerable time. The rebellion being suppressed, the guns and muskets belonging to the town were delivered up to the deputy lieutenants of the county, in consequence of an order from government.\*

When tranquillity had been re-established, the administration of the town was restored to legitimate magistrates and counsellors, under the authority of an ordinance of the king and council, by which the magistrates, who had served for the year previous to the rebellion, were empowered and required, on the 10th of April, this year, to proceed to the nomination of magistrates and counsellors, in such manner as they ought to have done, had they not been disturbed by the rebellion. By the same authority, it was directed, that those to be so chosen were to continue in office from that time until the ordinary

---

\* Council Register, vol. lviii. p. 487. 504.

A.D. 1716. dinary day of election, in the month of September; and, from thence forward, it was ordained, that the procedure in it should be continued, according to the ancient constitution, sets, and customs of the borough.\* The election having been proceeded to, the magistrates and counsellors were chosen, conformably to these injunctions. Immediately after the election, they granted authority to the several corporations of artificers to elect their deacons and other office-bearers, which was accordingly done in the usual manner.†

A few years previous to the commencement of those public transactions, there happened, near Aberdeen, the following interesting and melancholy occurrence, which requires to be related. On the 19th August, 1710, David Bruce, son to Robert Bruce, goldsmith in Edinburgh, and six other young men, students at the college of St.

---

\* “*At the Court of St. James's, the 10th day of March, 1715.*—Present, THE KING's most Excellent Majesty in Council.—Upon reading this day at the Board a Memoriall from the Right Hon. S<sup>r</sup> David Dalrymple of Hailes, Barr<sup>r</sup>, His Majesty's Advocate; The Right Hon. Adam Cockburne, Esq. of Ormistoun, Lord Justice Clerk; and S<sup>r</sup> James Steuart of Goodtrees, Barr<sup>r</sup>, His Majesty's Solicitor in North Britain; dated in Edinburgh, the 20th of February last, and directed to the Right Hon. the Lord Viscount Townshend, his Majesty's Principall Secretary of State, touching the most proper and effectuall method of resettling the Magistracy of severall Towns in North Britain, in such manner as may most contribute to the restoring of the peace of those Towns, and to the securing thereof for the future. And whereas it has been represented to his Majesty, that severall Burghs in North Britain were, at Michaelmas last, [the ordinary and legal time of their electing Magistrates] either entirely hindred from making such elections, according to their several constitutions; or that, where the formality of elections was observed, being then under the power and impression of the Rebels, the freedom of such elections was thereby restrained; and the Burgh of Aberdeen, in particular, having lain under such or the like circumstances before-mentioned; His Majesty in Council, taking the same into consideration, does think fitt, for restoring the peace and good government of the said Burgh, to order, and it is hereby ordered, that the Magistrates, who served in the Burgh of Aberdeen for the year last past, shall, and they are hereby authorised and required, on the tenth day of April next, to proceed to the election of Magistrates and Councils, to serve in the said Burgh, from the tenth day of April aforesaid, untill the ordinary time of the annuall change of the Magistrates and Council of the said Burgh, in the year 1716, in such manner as they ought to have done, if they had not been disturbed by the late Rebellion; and from thence forward, that the procedure in the election of Magistrates be continued, according to the constitution, sets, and customs, of the said Burgh: Of which all persons concerned are to take notice, and to give due obedience to his Majesty's pleasure, herein signified.

“WILLIAM BLETHWAYT.”

† Council Register, vol. lviii. p. 474.

St. Andrew's, put to sea, for their amusement, in an open boat, from the harbour of that place. In their attempt to return, they unfortunately lost one of their oars, and, the wind being unfavourable, they were driven off the coast, without a morsel of provisions, or any fresh water, on board. Their not returning in the evening created, in the city, a considerable degree of alarm for their safety, and early next morning several boats were dispatched in quest of them, but returned, without success. The unfortunate youths were tossed upon the waves for six days, at the mercy of the winds; and, although they were every day in sight of land, were unable to gain the shore. While in this lamentable situation, the wind shifted to the east, and a brisk gale drove them upon the rocky coast about four miles to the south of Aberdeen, near a place called Hernheugh. Worn out with fatigue, and want of food, they were unable to scramble up the rock, which was almost a precipice. Fortunately they were discovered by an old fisherman, who pointed out to them a place by which they could ascend; and two of them, with difficulty, regained the land. By the assistance of the people who came to their relief, the other five were got out of the boat, and carried to the house of John Shepherd, farmer in Findon, who treated them with much humanity, and contributed every thing in his power towards their comfort. Intelligence of this having been brought to Aberdeen, the magistrates immediately dispatched the dean of guild, along with a physician and surgeon, to prescribe to the unfortunate sufferers what their deplorable condition required; but, before they arrived, two of the young men had died. The other five, by the kind and humane treatment which they experienced, speedily recovered, regained their strength, and were restored to their friends. Mr. Bruce, to testify his gratitude to providence for restoring to him his son, caused a painting of the scene to be executed by an artist, which was afterwards handsomely engraved on copper-plate.\* A copy of the engraving, neatly glazed and framed, was presented by him to the magistrates, with a request that it might be hung up in the town-hall, in memory of the event.

P P

This

---

\* The engraving represented his son on the top of the rock, with his companions climbing up from the boat below, and the all-seeing eye of providence looking down upon them; with this inscription, "*Soli Deo gloria.*" It hung in the council-room till within these few years, when it



A.D. 1716. This engraving accordingly remained there for upwards of one hundred years.

At this time, a fire broke out in a house at the head of the Gallowgate, which rapidly spread to the adjoining houses; and, before it could be extinguished, the whole were burnt to the ground. The loss suffered by the owners and inhabitants was considerable; and the citizens, sympathizing with their distresses, made a handsome voluntary contribution for their relief.\*

1739. After a long interval of peace, war was declared by the nation against Spain, and hostilities commenced both by sea and land. An invasion of the town being dreaded, the blockhouse was repaired, and mounted with four ten pounders, and two eight pounders, which were brought from London, at a very considerable charge to the community. The citizens were also armed, for internal defence, with 300 stand of muskets, which had been purchased, at the rate of 10s. 6d. each, by the magistrates, from the commanding officer of Colonel Discury's regiment, quartered in the town.

In the end of this, and beginning of the subsequent year, the weather was remarkably severe. On the 29th December, a most intense frost had set in, accompanied with heavy falls of snow, which  
1740. continued, almost daily, until the beginning of February.† The corn mills, both in the town and country, were stopped; and, notwithstanding every exertion being made by the magistrates to procure a supply of meal, for the support of the inhabitants, it was with the utmost difficulty they could obtain 300 bolls, which they ordered to be retailed, at the rate of one shilling the peck.‡ The public societies

---

was removed, by order of one of the baillies, to give place to a catch-penny engraving of one of the heroes in the late war. Mr. Bruce also presented to John Shepherd, as a token of his esteem, a piece of silver plate, in the form of a boat, which is still preserved by some of his descendants.

\* Council Register, vol. lviii. p. 482.

† The spirit of wine in the thermometer was nearly reduced below extreme cold. Hares, partridges, &c. perished, and several persons were frozen to death. The Thames was frozen over as far downward as Billingsgate, and shops were erected upon the ice. The Forth, above Alloa, was entirely frozen over; and a crust of ice was upon the Queensferry.

‡ The crop was so extremely deficient, that the grain did not yield one half of the usual quantity of meal.

ties and individuals did not neglect to contribute liberally in money, A.D. 1740. to purchase meal for the poor, and to alleviate their distresses.

In the beginning of February, the snow and ice began to dissolve gently, without rain; but the spring set in with bleak and cold weather, which continued till the end of May. The whole summer was unfavourable, scarcity prevailed, and great numbers of cattle perished by want of food.

For relieving the necessities of the inhabitants, the magistrates procured, in the course of the summer, 3000 bolls\* of meal, which, although it was selling for one shilling, and upwards, in many parts of the country, they directed to be retailed at the rate of nine-pence the peck. In the end of September, there being little progress made in the harvest, a storm of snow came on, which greatly damaged the crop; and the weather having continued very unfavourable during the remainder of the season, the harvest was not finished in the beginning of December. Accordingly, the scantiness and deficiency of the crop, in most parts of the kingdom, occasioned a great scarcity and dearth; and the people, almost every where, were seized by the dread of famine. For averting this calamity, the gentlemen of the county, in conjunction with the magistrates, on the 18th of December, formed resolutions,† and agreed to

p p 2

adopt

---

\* The weekly consumption by the inhabitants, was, at this time, 300 bolls.

† MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE NOBLEMEN AND GENTLEMEN OF THE COUNTY.

*At Aberdeen, the 18th day of December, 1740:*

THE Meeting made choice of Alexander Robertson, Esq. present Provost of Aberdeen, to be their Preses, and unanimously agreed to the following resolutions, viz.:—That there shall be no transportation of victual from this shire, to any other place, either by land or water, except small quantities, which any person may buy, for his own use, in the public markets, or that heritors, residing in other places, may want, for the use of their own families, till the first Tuesday of April next: and recommended to the Justices of Peace to continue their quarter-sessions in March next till that time, because it is not known how much of the farms the tenants may pay, or what quantities may be necessary for supplying each heritor's own tenants. But it is understood, that when it is ascertained, at the meeting of the Justices, on the first Tuesday of April, or at any other posterior meeting, to be then appointed, in what manner the farms will be paid, and what will be necessary for supplying the county, and the towns thereof; the remainder may be disposed of to other places of the kingdom that stand in need thereof.

That

A.D. 1740. adopt measures which reflected the highest credit upon their liberality and humanity towards the suffering poor, and might be regarded

---

That letters be wrote upon this subject by the Preses, to the Duke of Gordon, the Duchess of Gordon, the Earl of Findlater, Lord Braco, and to the Viscount of Arbuthnot, Lord Halkertown, Sir Alexander Ramsay, Sir Alexander Bannerman, Pitfoddels, Rothemay, Sir William Gordon, and other noblemen and gentlemen, who have farms within the counties of Banff and Kincardine.

The Meeting is of opinion, that the town of Aberdeen ought to be supplied with 6000 bolls of meal, for the use of the inhabitants, and those of the neighbouring part of the county, who are commonly served with victual, which they buy in the town of Aberdeen, and this quantity to be furnished by the nobility and gentry of the shire, out of their farms; and recommend to the Earl of Aberdeen, Lord Forbes, Meldrum, Premnay, Pittodry, Pitmillan, Ranieshill, Loanmay, Buthlaw, Tilleray, Whitehaugh, Balmurell, Glenkindy, Auchmacoy, Shivas, Tarty, Kemnay, Alford, Overhall, and any other gentlemen that please to attend, as a Committee of this Meeting, to meet, and give their opinion how the said 6000 bolls of meal may be most equally furnished, and to report the same to the General Meeting, to-morrow, the 19th instant, at eleven o'clock before noon; and this Committee to meet at four o'clock, this afternoon, in the high council house, and also to report, to-morrow, their opinion, as to the price of the said 6000 bolls of meal, and for establishing a proper method for buying and retailing meal, for the benefit of the poor, in the different corners of the county.

The Committee having met at four o'clock, this afternoon, and having considered the resolution of the General Meeting in the forenoon, are of opinion, that, for serving the town of Aberdeen, and neighbouring country, and as the whole shire is concerned, and may all equally contribute, that one fifth part of the whole free farm meal which shall be really paid to the heritors within the shire, after deduction only of what serves their own families, be delivered to the magistrates of Aberdeen, or any person they shall appoint to receive the same, for the service of the town of Aberdeen, and neighbouring country, at the price to be hereafter ascertained; and that, for the conveniency of those heritors who are in use to deliver their farms at Portsoy, Fraserburgh, Peterhead, and Newburgh, and cannot carry their farms to Aberdeen, the magistrates of Aberdeen shall send ships to those ports to receive the quotas that fall to be delivered there; and in case at the next, or any subsequent Meeting, it shall appear that the said fifth shall not make up the 6000 bolls of meal so to be delivered, such deficiency is to be made up by the heritors at their next or subsequent Meeting, after the said deficiency shall appear.

It is the opinion of the Committee, that the price of the said 6000 bolls of meal should not exceed ten merks the boll, nor be under L.6 Scots; that whatever shall be delivered thereof before the first of April, shall be payable at Whitsunday next, and such of the gentlemen who do not deliver their farms at Aberdeen, if they send letters to the magistrates of Aberdeen, to be delivered to them before the first of April, declaring the quantity they are to deliver, and that the same shall be ready to be delivered, on demand, at any of the said ports, such letters, declaring the quantities they are to deliver, and obliging themselves to deliver the same, on demand, at any of the said ports, shall entitle them to receive their payment at Whitsunday next; and the remainder, to be delivered before the first of June, is to be payable at Martinmass next.

The Committee submit to the consideration of the General Meeting, whether or not they will continue the restraint upon buying small quantities of victual to the next quarter-session; or, if they



garded as an example worthy of imitation. These measures had, in A.D. 1740. so far, the desired effect, as considerably to alleviate the distresses of the inhabitants, both of the town and of the country.

In the month of June, this year, the gentlemen of the county, notwithstanding the scarcity that prevailed, agreed, at their general meeting,

---

will allow any person to buy up small quantities, whether or not it will be proper that it be granted upon licences from the Justices of Peace for that purpose; and that each buyer, getting such a licence, shall give security not to buy above a certain quantity, to be expressed in the licence; and that what he so buys he shall retail in small quantities, to those that want in the country, at a price not exceeding . . . . .

That it be recommended to each gentleman to keep such proportion of his farm unsold, as he may see necessary for the serving of his own tenants and subtenants, beside the above quantity, to be delivered to the magistrates of Aberdeen: and that further directions be given as to the buyers of corn and bear, with the fodder, that it be bought for the buyers own use only.

---

*At Aberdeen, the 19th December, 1740.*—The General Meeting having again met, in consequence of their former adjournment, and the Report of the Committee being read over, the Meeting approved of the opinion of the Committee, that a fifth part of the farms be delivered to the magistrates of Aberdeen, for making up their quantity of 6000 bolls; which resolution was signed immediately by all the noblemen and gentlemen present, as on a paper apart. The Meeting also resolve, that the price of the said 6000 bolls of meal shall be L.6 8s. Scots, the boll, payable in manner before-mentioned. The Meeting is also of opinion, that the former advertisement of the Justices of Peace, restraining the buying up of meal in small quantities, or bear or corn, with the fodder, except only for the buyers own use, be further continued by the Justices, till the first Tuesday of April next; and that an act be made by the Justices of Peace accordingly: but that the Justices should grant licenses to proper persons for buying up a sufficient quantity of meal, for serving the inhabitants of the towns of Fraserburgh, Peterhead, Newburgh, Rosearty, and Charlestown of Aboyne; that the quantity should be mentioned in the licences; and that the persons to whom the licenses are granted should enact themselves in the Justices Court Books, to retail and sell out the meal they buy up, in consequence of the said licences, at no higher price than eight-pence halfpenny per peck.

The Meeting is further of opinion, that it should be recommended to all the other noblemen, gentlemen, and heritors of the county, who are not present, that they keep a proportion of their farms unsold, besides what they deliver to the town of Aberdeen, for the supply of their own tenants and subtenants; and that the Preses write letters to the Moderators of each Presbytery within the county, desiring that the ministers who have stipend meal paid to them should concur with the nobility and gentry of the shire, and send in, to the magistrates of Aberdeen, the same proportion of their meal stipend, after supplying their own families, in order to make up a part of the 6000 bolls, deliverable to the town of Aberdeen.

ALEXANDER ROBERTSON, *Preses*.

A.D. 1740. meeting, to supply the town with 4000 bolls of meal, for the support of the inhabitants, at the rate of 13s. 4d. sterling the boll; and the magistrates engaged to retail it to the people, both in the town and in the country, at the rate of 10d. the peck. This, with an importation of barley from Holland, afforded considerable relief, and prevented any serious want. But the inhabitants in the higher parts of the country experienced many privations and distresses, which approached almost to famine. They came to the town in great numbers, from the distance of forty miles, to supplicate, even at any price, a small supply of corn or meal, for the sustenance of their families.

1741. On the 4th of August, this year, a terrible fire broke out in a house on the west side of the Broadgate, which, at first, threatened destruction to that part of the town. The houses being constructed of wood, with *stake* and *rice* chimnies, the fire rapidly spread itself on each side, and no efforts of the people could extinguish it until several adjoining houses had been completely consumed. Although this was a severe calamity both to the owners and to the inhabitants of these buildings, yet it ultimately proved beneficial to the town. After this accident, an act of council was passed, ordaining the outside walls of houses to be constructed wholly of stone or brick, and the roofs to be covered with slate or tyle; and prohibiting every person from building outside walls with wood, chimnies with lath and plaster, or covering houses with turf, heath, or straw. In consequence of this salutary regulation, the citizens began to rebuild their tenements in a more regular manner, with more durable and substantial materials than formerly, and to embellish the front walls of their houses with dressed and regular coursed granite, on which method of building improvements have continued to be made.

1742. In the course of this and the subsequent year, there appears to have been carried on, by certain persons in Aberdeen, a very nefarious traffic with Virginia, being a species of the slave trade, which, in modern times, has been so justly reprobated, and is now happily abolished by the legislature. It would seem, that young boys of the country, who had occasion to repair to the town, and were  
without

without the protection of their friends, were enticed to enter into engagements with the traders to go to the plantations in America. A.D. 1742. Many of these unwary youths were, in this manner, decoyed, and transported to Virginia, where they were disposed of to the best account; and, being kept in a condition which never enabled them to redeem their freedom, they continued in bondage as long as their masters thought proper to detain them.

This trade, although it was well known under the name of *kidnapping*, does not seem to have much attracted the attention of the people, or to have occasioned much alarm in the town, owing, perhaps, to their ignorance, at the time, of the future destiny of the unfortunate sufferers. About sixteen years afterwards, however, Peter Williamson, one of them, a native of Aberdeenshire, who, when only about ten or twelve years of age, had been thus carried off from Aberdeen, unexpectedly appeared in the town. Having effected his liberty in America, and returned to Britain, while at York, in his way to the place of his nativity, he published, in a small pamphlet, the detail of his adventures, and particularly of his sufferings from the French and Indians. This pamphlet, which disclosed to the public the manner in which he had been kidnapped, and carried out of Britain, he sold, on his arrival, in Aberdeen, in June, 1758. As some of the citizens, who had been in the magistracy, were implicated in this disclosure, they were highly incensed at the conduct of Williamson, and were the cause of his being forthwith summoned before two of the baillies, at the suit of the dean of guild, as public prosecutor, to answer for a libel upon the *character* and *reputation* of the merchants of Aberdeen. It was in vain for him to deny the charge, for 200 copies of the pamphlet were found in his custody; and equally in vain did he plead the severities which he had endured, while in bondage, as an alleviation of his offence. Having no protector to defend him, nor any friend to intercede with his judges, he was convicted of the libel; and the exceptionable parts of the book were condemned to be torn out, at the sight of his prosecutor, and the town-clerk, and to be burnt, at the cross, by the hands of the common hangman. But this was not deemed to be an adequate expiation of the offence. He was ordained to crave pardon of the magistrates, in the *most submissive*



A.D. 1742. *missive manner*; to be imprisoned in the jail till he did so, and paid a fine of ten shillings; and to be proscribed the town. At the same time, his transgression and punishment were ordered to be published in the newspapers.

Williamson, having submitted to this degrading and rigorous condemnation, repaired to Edinburgh, where his case was taken up by some friends of humanity, and became the subject of cognizance of the judges of the supreme court. The conduct of the adventurers in this abominable trade of kidnapping was developed, by production of their journals; and the iniquity and rigour of the magistrates' sentence appeared so manifest, that those judges did not hesitate to pronounce, in the month of February, 1762, an unanimous judgment in favour of Williamson, condemning the provost, four baillies, and dean of guild, jointly, in a fine of L.100 sterling, to be paid to him, as a reparation for the injury which he had suffered by their means; with the whole expence of the law-suit, being about L.80 sterling more. And the judges, to testify their disapprobation of the proceedings of the magistrates in this instance, directed that they should be personally liable, not only to the fine, but to the expense.\*

1745. After an interval of thirty years, the last attempt was made by the Chevalier de St. George to regain the crown and kingdoms which the bigotry and imprudence of his father had so justly forfeited. His son, Charles Edward Stuart, taking advantage of some reverses of fortune which Britain had lately experienced on the continent, set sail, in a French frigate, from France, in the month of August, this year, accompanied by a few friends, for accomplishing the

---

\* The magistrates intended to have taken an appeal to the House of Peers, but they were dissuaded by the Earl of Findlater, who had been, for many years, the patron of the town. His Lordship was of opinion, that, as Williamson was a poor man, an appeal, by the magistrates of a royal borough, would be taken up in a very unfavourable point of view. It was, therefore, abandoned. The Earl, however, being, at this time, Lord High Admiral of Scotland, had appointed the magistrates his Admirals Depute on this part of the coast; and, although the salvages of wrecked vessels were generally accounted for by them, from time to time, to his Lordship, yet he never called for any money that might have been received by his deputies, but, with the greatest liberality, directed it to be applied to the common good of the town. On this occasion, he was pleased to order the money arising from such salvages to be appropriated to payment of the fine and expenses which had been awarded to Williamson; and it was, no doubt, applied accordingly—[*M.S. penes me—Life of Peter Williamson—Process, Williamson against the Magistrates of Aberdeen, in 1761 and 1762.*]

the daring enterprise of dethroning the king, and subverting the government of Britain. He flattered himself with sanguine hopes of meeting with a cordial support from the Jacobites, and disaffected chieftains, in Scotland, whose zeal for his father's cause was not yet extinguished. After encountering several difficulties, he landed upon the west coast of Scotland, where he was joined by a few of the highland clans, under their chiefs; and, among the rest, by the Marquis of Tullibardine, who was the eldest son of the former Duke of Athol, and had forfeited his estates and honours by his accession to the previous rebellion. On the 18th of the same month, Tullibardine took the command of Prince Charles' army, and hostilities commenced with the king's troops, in the neighbourhood of Fort William. Sir John Cope, commander-in-chief of the few regular troops in Scotland, immediately put in motion what forces he could collect, and marched in quest of the rebels. He left Stirling, with about 1500 foot, intending to take the road to Inverness, by the passage over the hills of Corriarach; but, having received intelligence that the rebels meant to attack him in that intricate pass, he changed his route, proceeded by Ruthven, in Badenoch, and, by forced marches, arrived at Inverness, without meeting with any opposition, leaving the southern part of the kingdom exposed to the rebels. A.D. 1745.

Meanwhile, Prince Charles, finding that his army was considerably augmented, advanced southward; and, upon the 3d of September, took possession of the town of Perth, where he was joined by a nobleman who had assumed the title of Duke of Perth, and by other disaffected barons. He marched from that place, passed the frith of Forth, and, his progress being uninterrupted, took possession of the city of Edinburgh, after some little resistance, on the 17th September. He now found himself in the metropolis of Scotland, with a pretty numerous army, and held his levees in the king's palace of Holyrood.

In this situation of public affairs, the magistrates of Aberdeen, who zealously supported the house of Brunswick, convened the citizens in the town-hall, for the purpose of concerting the measures proper to be adopted in this difficult juncture. After a variety of opinions among them, it was, at length, resolved, that a certain number of the inhabi-

A.D. 1745. tants should be armed, and do duty alternately, by guards of seventy, for preserving peace and good order in the town ; and officers were accordingly appointed by the magistrates for taking the command.

Sir John Cope having found no commotion at Inverness, returned southward, and arrived at Aberdeen on the 11th September, with 2100 foot, his army being augmented by the highlanders who had joined him in the north. He rested his army in the town till Sunday the 15th, when he embarked on board of transports, and sailed for the south, under convoy of three sloops of war. He landed at Dunbar on the subsequent Tuesday, being the same day on which Prince Charles had entered the palace of Holyroodhouse. Previous to leaving Aberdeen, Cope dismounted, from the blockhouse, six fine twelve pounders, which he carried away, along with 250 stand of muskets, and ammunition, belonging to the town, that these artillery and arms might not fall into the hands of the rebels. Cope's army, on landing at Dunbar, was augmented by two regiments of dragoons, who had found it necessary to retire from Edinburgh, on the approach of the rebels.

Upon the 20th, Prince Charles marched from his camp, near Duddingston, in quest of Cope's army, which consisted of about 3000 horse and foot, well supported with artillery ; and encamped in the neighbourhood of Prestonpans, with the village of Tranent in his front, and the sea in his rear. Early next morning the prince commenced the attack, at the head of about 2500 highlanders, ragged, half armed, and undisciplined, who, with sword in hand, charged the king's troops with such impetuosity, that, in a very short time, they were broken, and totally routed. The dragoons fled with precipitancy at the first onset ; and the general officers, having ineffectually attempted to rally them, thought proper to consult their own safety by a rapid retreat towards Coldstream. In this action, five officers of the king's army were killed, among whom was the gallant Colonel Gardener ; 84 officers were taken prisoners ; 400 rank and file killed, and 1200 taken prisoners. The whole artillery, camp equipage, and the military chest, fell into the hands of the victors, who returned, in triumph, to Edinburgh. Sir John Cope and the Earl of Loudon, with some dragoons, fled to Dunbar ; and the officers who had been  
taken



taken prisoners were sent into Fife and Angus, where they were left at their liberty, on their parole, which many of them, in the sequel, thought proper to break. A.D. 1715.

About this time, John Hamilton, chamberlain to the Duke of Gordon, and a zealous partizan of the prince, marched into Aberdeen, with about twenty-five horsemen, and seventy foot, on their way to join the rebel army. On his arrival, he assumed not a little authority in the town, and was joined by several disaffected inhabitants. He ordered all the prisoners in the jail to be set at liberty, proceeded to the cross, where he proclaimed a manifesto, announcing Prince Charles regent of the kingdom, and compelled the magistrates to attend him. These circumstances having occurred on the day appointed for the annual election of the magistrates and town council, in which some progress had been made previous to the arrival of Hamilton, it was thought advisable to postpone, at this time, any further proceedings. On the 27th September, he and his followers took their departure, and proceeded to Edinburgh, where they joined the rebel army.\*

The Jacobites, both in the town and county, were so much elated with the late successes of their chief in the south, that they could not be restrained within the bounds of moderation. After Hamilton had left the town, several gentlemen from Buchan, and other parts of the country, arrived, with about thirty-four horse, and joined Lord Pitsligo; but they soon departed, taking with them a company of foot, composed chiefly of some young men and apprentices, who had been enticed to engage in the service of the rebels. In the beginning of November, Lord Lewis Gordon, who had been appointed, by the prince, lord lieutenant of the counties of Aberdeen and Banff, made his appearance in the town, accompanied by William Moir of Lonmay, and James Moir of Stoneywood, and assumed the direction of public affairs. He summoned the magistrates, who had formerly been in office, and the counsellors, who had been nominated upon the 25th September, to meet him in the town-house, in order to com-

q q 2

plete

---

\* Council Register, vol. lxi. p. 216.

A.D. 1745. plete the act of election, which had been postponed; and to put the town under proper civil government; but none of the members were inclined to attend him. He, therefore, named a set of magistrates and counsellors, suited to his own views; but, notwithstanding his threats of imprisonment, they all declared their refusal to accept the offices to which they had been nominated. On this, he thought it proper to appoint Mr. Moir of Lonmay to be his deputy-lieutenant, and governor of the town. The first act of Mr. Moir's administration was an order to levy the cess from the citizens for the preceding year, being L.487 6s. 4d. sterling, and to enforce payment by military execution. The rebels being in possession of the town, lived at free quarters, and the lord lieutenant issued his directions to the landholders of the county, to furnish, for their army, one man, sufficiently clothed and armed, for every L.100 Scots of the valued rent of their lands, or to pay L.5 sterling for each deficient man, in lieu of service; and in this levy the town was included.

About this time, Lord John Drummond,\* having landed at Montrose, made his appearance in Aberdeen, under the assumed title of commander-in-chief of his most Christian Majesty's forces in Scotland; and published, at the cross, with great ceremony, a singular manifesto,† which was, afterwards, printed, and dispersed. But, although it

---

\* In the end of September there arrived at Stonehaven two ships from France, one with arms, and another with about 120 men, officers included; at Peterhead, two ships, with about 150 French troops, and warlike stores; at Aberdeen, an hospital ship, with about 40 Frenchmen; and at Montrose, two ships, with troops and warlike stores, in one of which was Lord John Drummond.

† "We, Lord John Drummond, Commander-in-chief of his most Christian Majesty's forces in Scotland, do hereby declare, that we are come to this kingdom with written orders to make war against the King of England, Elector of Hanover, and all his adherents; and that the positive orders we have from his most Christian Majesty are, to attack all his enemies in this kingdom, whom he has declared to be those who will not immediately join or assist, as far as will lie in their power, the Prince of Wales, Regent of Scotland, &c. his ally; and whom he is resolved, with concurrence of the King of Spain, to support, in the taking possession of Scotland, England, and Ireland, if necessary, at the expense of all the men and money he is master of; to which three kingdoms the family of Stuart have so just and indisputable a title. And his most Christian Majesty's positive orders are, that his enemies should be used in this kingdom in proportion to the harm they do, or intend to do, his Royal Highness's cause.—*Given at Montrose, 2d December, 1745.*"

alarmed some of the loyal citizens, yet, in general, it made little impression, and was treated with the contempt which it really merited. In the meantime, the Earl of Loudon having been appointed commander-in-chief of the king's forces in the north, had collected a body of highlanders, composed of M'Leods, Monroes, Sutherlands, M'Kays, and Grants, and detached the Laird of M'Leod, with 500 men, having under him Captain Monro of Culcairn, and 200 of his clan, to deliver Aberdeen from the possession of the rebels. On the intelligence of their approach, Lord Lewis Gordon assembled all the forces that he could collect in the town and the neighbourhood, to the number of about 1100 foot, consisting chiefly of French auxiliaries and Angus men. They marched from the town on Monday, 23d December, with all the insignia of warlike array, and five pieces of small artillery, which they had seized from a vessel in the harbour. Their route was to Inverury, by the Fintray road, on the left side of the river Don. About four o'clock in the afternoon, they passed the river Ury, near the church, and surprised this detachment of Lord Loudon's army, to the number of 1200 foot. A skirmish ensued, and, after some fighting, the clans were obliged to retreat, with the loss of five men killed, and about forty taken prisoners. Of the rebels, twenty were killed in the action, some few drowned or killed in passing the river, and a considerable number were wounded. Mr. Maitland of Pittrichie, Mr. Forbes of Echt, Mr. Chalmers, late principal of King's College, who happened to be with the king's troops, and Lieutenant Gordon, of the Monros, were taken prisoners, conducted to the town, and confined in prison for some time, where they were harshly treated. Lord Lewis returned to the town, greatly elated by his success, which was too insignificant to be of any important advantage to the general cause. After the accomplishment of this enterprise, the town continued to be infested with the rebels; and the deputy-lieutenant and governor enforced payment of a contribution of L.1000, which was imposed upon the citizens, towards the expense of supplies for the rebel army.

In

---

\* Council Register, vol. xvi. p. 216.



A.D. 1745. Meanwhile, Prince Charles had marched into England, with an army of about 6000 men. In the beginning of November, he laid siege to Carlisle, which, in three days, surrendered; and, having taken the route to Manchester, he was joined by about two hundred men, and penetrated as far as Derby, where his army halted. The disappointments which he had met with in finding so few adherents in England, the distresses which his troops had endured from the inclemency of the season, and a great force, under the king in person, which lay betwixt him and London, obliged him to retreat, without delay, into Scotland. He conducted his retreat in good order, before a harassing enemy, with unparalleled celerity, neither plundering the country, nor leaving the sick, the stragglers, nor artillery, behind. On his return to Scotland, he defeated the king's forces, under General Hawley, at Falkirk, and, elated with his success, proceeded to besiege Stirling Castle. Having failed in this enterprise, and the royal army, under the Duke of Cumberland, closely pursuing him, he precipitately retired into the north.

1746. In the beginning of the year, intelligence being brought to Aberdeen, that his Royal Highness had arrived at Edinburgh with a strong army, and had driven the rebels across the Forth, such of them as had remained in the town were seized with consternation, and began to take their departure rather abruptly. On the 8th of February, one of the divisions of the rebel army, 2000 strong, marched into Aberdeen, in the course of their retreat to the north, and others of them followed; but, on the 23d, it was evacuated by the rebels.

The Duke made rapid progress to overtake the army under Prince Charles; but, by their surprising retreats, and the rapidity of their movements, they eluded his vigilance. On Tuesday, 25th February, one regiment of dragoons, and three regiments of foot, of the royal army, marched into the town; and, in a few days afterwards, thirteen regiments of foot, and three regiments of dragoons, followed. The former were cantoned in the town, and the latter in Old Aberdeen, and in the villages in the neighbourhood.

On the 27th, his Royal Highness arrived at Aberdeen, accompanied by a few general officers, and a detachment of dragoons. He  
was

was received in the Schoolhill, by a deputation of the magistrates A.D. 1746. who had served in office previous to the rebellion, and conducted to his lodgings in the Guestraw, through the streets, which were lined with the burgesses, and other inhabitants.\* On the subsequent day, he was waited on by the same deputation, and by other respectable citizens, who congratulated him on his success, and welcomed him to the town. They met with a gracious reception.

In order to testify his approbation of the good conduct of the citizens, in the critical juncture of public affairs, he announced a ball, in the Marischal College, on Monday the 3d of March, which was attended by all the respectable people of the town; and his Royal Highness was pleased to display sincere marks of respect both for the ladies and the gentlemen who were assembled on this occasion.

The army remained in their cantonments until the beginning of April, when he began to put his troops in motion, that he might commence hostilities against the rebels. On the 8th of April, the Duke took his departure from Aberdeen, with the rear division of his army, the main body, which was advancing northward, having marched some days before him.

Before leaving the town, he placed its civil government under the direction of James Morison of Elsick, who had formerly filled the office of chief magistrate, and of eleven other citizens, for the purpose of preserving the peace, until tranquillity should be restored. At the same time, the newly erected building of Robert Gordon's hospital was converted into a temporary fort, with a garrison of 200 men, who were put under the command of a captain. It was surrounded by a trench, and earthen ramparts, faced with palisadoes, and called Fort Cumberland. The citizens, to the number of 400, enrolled themselves as volunteers, to serve as guards in the town, in the absence of the king's forces, and were regularly trained to arms†.

The royal army, having passed the river Spey without being molested by the rebels, though a body of them hovered on the opposite

---

\* Council Register, vol. lxi. p. 217.

† M.S. penes me.

A.D. 1746. posite bank, proceeded to Nairn, where his Royal Highness received intelligence that they had advanced, on their way to meet him, from Inverness to Culloden, about nine miles distant from his position. On the 16th, the Duke came up with the rebels, who were formed, in order of battle, on the moor of Culloden. They were found to be about 6000 strong; but the king's forces outnumbered them, and were disposed in excellent order by their commander, who, during the whole of the engagement, distinguished himself by displaying the abilities of an experienced general. The royal army was supported with ten field pieces; the artillery of the rebels was less numerous, badly served, and ill directed. The cannonading began about one in the afternoon, and the rebels, impatient of the galling fire of the royal artillery, rushed on, and charged the king's troops with their usual impetuosity; but, although the left wing was staggered by the fury of their assault, yet on the right and centre they had made no impression. In a short time, the rebels were vanquished, and a total rout ensued. What followed is so well known in history, that it is unnecessary to recapitulate it here.

By this decisive victory, the rebellion was completely extinguished, and tranquillity soon restored. Intelligence of this event being brought to the town, there were great rejoicings, which were continued by the citizens for two days. Addresses were transmitted from the twelve gentlemen who had been appointed governors, and from the citizens, both to the King, and to his Royal Highness the Duke, congratulating them on the late success of his Majesty's arms, and the suppression of the rebellion.

The government of the town was restored to legitimate magistrates and a town council, under the authority of an ordinance of the king and council, which directed, that the same persons who might have elected the magistrates, counsellors, and other office-bearers, at Michaelmas last, should meet, on the 9th of July, and proceed to complete the election, according to the ancient practice; and those who were so elected were authorised to continue in their respective offices until the ordinary day of the annual change, in the month of September. After the election, the magistrates and council voted the freedom of the town, to be presented, in an elegant gold box, to the



the Duke of Cumberland, to whom they paid many high compliments, on his bravery and good conduct, in so speedily and effectually extinguishing the rebellion. The box was presented to his Royal Highness by Mr. Maule, member of parliament for this district of boroughs, and graciously received. A.D. 1746.

After the battle of Culloden, part of the royal army returned to Aberdeen, where the 36th (Fleming's) regiment remained in cantonments during the summer. Some of the officers of that corps, perhaps elated by their late successes, could not be restrained from committing outrages upon the inhabitants. On the first of August, being the anniversary day of the accession of King George I. to the throne, they conceived that they had a right to order the windows of the houses in the town to be illuminated. This not having been so readily complied with as was expected, they gave directions to the soldiers to demolish the windows; by which means considerable damage was occasioned to the inhabitants. The magistrates acted, on this occasion, with becoming spirit, for, next day, they issued a warrant to apprehend one of the officers who had given directions to break the windows, and to order him to be committed to jail, till he should find security, under a high penalty, to stand trial for the offence. The officers, who were the abettors in this outrage, had cause to regret their imprudence; for not only the crown lawyers, but the commander-in-chief, expressed, in decided terms, disapprobation of their conduct on this occasion; and the magistrates had determined to sue them for reparation of the damages which had been suffered by the citizens. At the intercession, however, of the Earl of Albemarle, commander-in-chief, and of the Lord Justice Clerk, the matter was referred to the arbitration of two gentlemen of the county, who pronounced an award, finding the officers liable to L.60 16s. 5d. being the loss which had been sustained by the poorer ranks of the inhabitants. The damages suffered by others in the town, which were very considerable, never were claimed.

In the course of this rebellion, Aberdeen had not many grievances to complain of; for, although it had been in possession of the  
R R
rebels

---

\* Decree Arbitral, dated 31st January, 1747.

A.D. 1746. rebels for five or six months, yet few excesses were committed by them upon the inhabitants; and the contributions which were imposed by their leaders were, upon the whole, very inconsiderable, and scarcely felt by those who were subjected to them. The money remitted to pay the royal army, and the gold which was sent over from France to assist the pretender, occasioned a considerable influx of wealth into the country; and many persons in the town experienced the benefits arising from it, and from the furnishings and provisions to both armies. After this event, the people began to apply themselves more to industry, and to make greater exertions, in the way of trade and manufactures, than they had formerly been accustomed to do; so that, upon the whole, the result of the rebellion was, in many respects, favourable to Scotland. After that period, the trade and population of Aberdeen would appear to have gradually increased.

1752. At Michaelmas, this year, a difference arose among some of the leading members of the town council, concerning the politics of the borough. Alexander Livingston of Countesswells had been chosen provost at the preceding election, was zealous in promoting the trade and manufactures of the place, where he had established several trading companies, and was supported by a pretty strong party in the council. He had, however, unfortunately incurred the displeasure of some of the oldest members, who now formed a party to oppose him,\* in the event of his standing a candidate for re-election. The counsellors were equally divided, nine being against him, eight only in his interest, and one being absent. On the day of the annual election, the provost could only muster nine votes, when the old council met to choose the new; all the other members having absented themselves intentionally, although they were duly summoned to attend, at the hour appointed. The provost, notwithstanding, proceeded to the nomination of the new counsellors, who were all his adherents; and, in the evening, the election was completed, in the usual manner,

---

\* Mr. Livingston was a native of Aberdeen, and had, in the course of trade, acquired a considerable fortune in Rotterdam. The only charge against him was, that the price of meal had risen in the course of his mayoralty, a circumstance which he could not prevent, for it was well known, that he never had been concerned as a dealer in corn or meal.

manner, he himself being elected provost, and his friends office-bearers and counsellors. The party of the old council who had absented themselves now murmured loudly at the advantage which had been taken of their absence, and resolved to complain to the supreme civil court; but it appears their counsel at Edinburgh were of opinion, that, as they had intentionally absented themselves, it was not competent to them to prosecute a complaint in the present instance, but that other burgesses might complain of the illegality of the election. A summary complaint was accordingly presented to the court of session, in name of a number of the friends of the opposition, and the usual warrant was issued upon it; but some omission or informality having taken place, which was fatal to the action, the parties cooled in their ardour, abandoned the law-suit, and acquiesced in a reference, which was proposed, to the Earl of Findlater, who not only reconciled them, but confirmed the election; which put an end to political differences in the council for many years.

About this time, a discord sprung up among the people, concerning the psalmody in the church. The music had been long complained of, as too slow and inharmonious to the refined taste of many of the congregation. An improvement had been lately made in church music, in some of the neighbouring parishes, by a person of the name of Shannon, who professed to teach the musical art. To gratify many of the principal citizens, the magistrates engaged him to perform, along with his pupils, in the church, which he accordingly did, much to the satisfaction of a majority of the people. This religious innovation, however, alarmed Mr. John Bisset and Mr. James Ogilvie, two of the ministers, who represented it as no less than the introduction of *idolatry*; particularly, as Shannon had formerly been a soldier, and used a pitch pipe. In this they were supported by the members of the church session, who carried matters so far as to dictate to the congregation how they should sing, and what tunes they should practise in the church; by which means a ferment was raised among the people, who, as usual, in such cases, were much divided. The matter having been carried before the presbytery by an appeal, that reverend body was of opinion, that the church session had done wrong, and that they had no power to dic-



A.D. 1754. tate to the congregation how they should sing, nor to restrict them to any number of tunes. At the same time, they recommended to the people to learn and sing what pieces of music they thought proper.

1756. The ambitious schemes of the French in North America having now occasioned disputes between Great Britain and France, concerning the British settlements on that continent, a rupture ensued between the two nations, which involved Britain in a tedious and bloody war in almost every quarter of the globe. Hostilities commenced in North America, afterwards in Germany, for the protection of his Majesty's electoral dominions of Hanover; and formidable armaments, both by sea and land, were fitted out by the belligerent powers. Soon after the commencement of hostilities, an invasion of Britain was threatened by France, and various preparations were made for that purpose. The magistrates of Aberdeen thought it proper to adopt necessary measures of precaution for the safety of the town, in the event of a descent being attempted by the enemy. The blockhouse was repaired, and mounted with four twelve-pounders, for the protection of the harbour; and the citizens were enrolled as volunteers, to the number of 500, to serve as a corps for the defence of the town; but no circumstance occurred to require their services. On one occasion, however, a considerable alarm was spread, by the appearance, on the coast, of six French frigates, with 1300 land forces on board, under the command of the noted adventurer Thurot; but this squadron did not attempt any landing of troops, and soon disappeared.

In the course of this war, the ship owners suffered severe losses, by having many of their vessels captured by French privateers; which, although they allowed them to be ransomed, as was then the practice, carried off, on frequent occasions, more money from the owners than the real value of the ships that had been taken.

1761. The 22d of September, this year, being fixed for the coronation of our gracious sovereign, King George III. and of his Queen, Charlotte, who are both still in life, was celebrated in the town with every demonstration of joy. The day was ushered in by the ringing of bells, and by bonfires on the streets. In the course of the forenoon, a concert

concert of vocal and instrumental music was performed in the hall of the Marischal College, to which many of the citizens were invited, by printed cards from the magistrates. The company was numerous, and the ladies were splendidly dressed for the occasion. After the concert, they repaired to the town-hall, where an elegant collation was prepared for them ; and the gentlemen proceeded to an amphitheatre, constructed in the Castle-street, on the east side of the cross, where they drank, in wine, the healths of the king and queen, and other patriotic toasts ; the military firing vollies in the intervals. In the evening, the houses were brilliantly illuminated, and the citizens were entertained by the magistrates in the town-hall. To add to the splendour of the day, the incorporated trades assembled, and accompanied their convener and their deacons in a grand procession through the streets, with their respective colours and insignia displayed. Afterwards, they sat down to a sumptuous entertainment, provided in their common hall, to which the magistrates and some of the principal citizens were invited. A.D. 1761.

The latter part of this year was remarkable for a long continuance of unfavourable weather, which retarded the harvest. The alarm of scarcity occasioned a considerable rise in the price of corn ; and the populace, as usual, denounced their vengeance on the dealers in meal in the town. In the month of December, a mob of disorderly persons assembled on the street, broke open the cellar of one of those dealers, threatened to put himself to death, and carried off, in a very lawless manner, a considerable quantity of his stock. The magistrates and sheriff of the county being unable to restrain this outrage, were compelled to call out the military to their assistance. In vain did they attempt to quell the disturbance, and disperse the mob ; and every persuasive effort to appease the people having failed, the soldiers were ordered to fire upon them, and accordingly one man was killed, and several persons wounded. The rioters now thought proper to take flight ; but a few of the most active of the ringleaders were apprehended, committed to prison, tried before the circuit court of justiciary in the subsequent spring, and two of them being convicted of the outrage, one was banished from the kingdom, and the other suffered the punishment of transportation. About 1767.

A.D. 1775. About this time, differences arose between Great Britain and her colonies in North America, with relation to the expense which had been incurred by Britain, in the prosecution of the former war with France, chiefly for their protection. The ministers considered, that the American colonies were, upon every principle of equity, responsible for a part of this expense; and, on that account, imposed a tax, or stamp duty, on paper, used for various purposes, in the course of trade, within the colonial territories. This tax being resisted by the Americans, was abandoned, and another substituted in its place, being a duty on certain commodities exported from Britain to the colonies. This met with still greater opposition, and, ultimately, both countries were involved in a tedious and disastrous war, which terminated, at the end of seven years, by establishing the independence of the American states.

1778. Soon after the commencement of the war, the citizens of Aberdeen made an attempt to establish a corps of volunteers, for the defence of the town, and about 500 of them were embodied and armed; but their plan of service not corresponding with what had been settled by government, they were soon disembodied. That nothing, however, might be deficient, on the part of the magistrates and of the citizens, to display their zeal in support of the constitutional connexion between the mother country and her colonies, they, in January, this year, tendered an offer to raise a regiment, to be called the Aberdeen volunteers, to serve in the line; and considerable subscriptions were made, in money, by the citizens, for defraying the charge of this undertaking. But his Majesty's ministers declined to accept this patriotic offer, by a letter to the magistrates from the Earl of Suffolk, one of the principal secretaries of state.\*

1781. In the spring of this year, three privateers were fitted out by three several associations of adventurers in Aberdeen, at a considerable expense, to cruize against the Americans, and their allies; but they did not meet with the desired success, having returned from their cruizes without making any captures. One of these privateers, called the *Revenge*,

---

\* Council Register, vol. lxiv. p. 116.



*Revenge*, of 100 tons burthen, mounted twelve guns, the crew consisting of forty men; another, the *Liberty*, of the same burthen, with the same number of guns, and crew; and the third, the *Tartar*, of 60 tons burthen, armed with four guns, having twenty men on board. On the 25th May, this year, two of these, the *Liberty* and *Tartar*, were cut out of the bay of Aberdeen, where they were riding at anchor, and both destroyed, by the noted Captain Fall, under the guns of the newly erected battery. These circumstances seem to have put a stop to future adventures of that kind in this quarter. A.D. 1781.

In the course of the war, the owners of shipping belonging to the port suffered very severe losses, by the enemies privateers, which captured, ransomed, and destroyed many of their vessels.

This year was long remembered, for the inclemency of the weather during the greatest part of it, and for scarcity and dearth. In the month of October, when very little progress had been made in the harvest, severe frosts, attended with heavy falls of snow, set in, which destroyed the standing corn, prevented it from ripening, and materially injured, in many parts of the country, a great part of what had been cut down. The unceasing continuance of bad weather during the latter part of the year retarded the harvest so much, that, in the middle of December, it was not completely finished. These circumstances naturally occasioned an alarming deficiency in the crop, and famine would have been the inevitable consequence, had not the ports been opened for the importation of corn, upon paying the low duties, and great exertions made, by government, and individuals, to procure supplies from foreign countries, for the necessities of the people. 1782.

The magistrates of Aberdeen embraced the earliest opportunity of concerting the best means of alleviating the distresses of the inhabitants, and of preventing, among the indigent part of them, so severe a calamity as famine, which was much dreaded. In the end of October, it was found, on enquiry, that the stock of corn and meal, of all kinds, in the town, was inadequate to more than two weeks consumption; and there being little prospect of any supply from the county, the magistrates judged it proper to sum-

mon

A.D. 1782. mon a meeting of the principal citizens, to advise with them in this distressing juncture. At this meeting, a committee\* of nineteen gentlemen was appointed, to solicit pecuniary aid, by voluntary subscriptions, that a fund might be raised for purchasing corn, wherever it could be procured; and for conducting the business, upon a proper system, for the benefit of the inhabitants. The contributions, from the public societies of the town, and from individuals, were very liberal, the sum of L.1719 17s. 6d. being speedily raised;

---

\* The Gentlemen who were appointed of this Committee were:—

William Young, Esq. Lord Provost  
 James Jopp, Esq. late Provost  
 William Cruden, Esq. late Baillie  
 John Auldjo, Esq. late Baillie  
 Francis Leys, Esq. late Baillie  
 Alexander Allardyce, Esq.  
 Thomas Bannerman, Esq. Merchant †  
 Alexander Leslie, Esq. do.  
 Alexander Black, Esq. do.  
 Robert Turner, Esq. Sheriff Substitute

John Gordon, Esq. Sheriff Clerk  
 James Gibbon, from Society of Shipmasters  
 Roderick McLeod, Sub-Principal of King's College  
 Rev. Dr. Gerrard, Professor of Divinity, do.  
 Thomas Taylor, Convener of the Trades  
 James Gordon, Master of the Trades' Hospital  
 John Tower, late Convener  
 J. Hackett, from the Incorporation of Shoemakers  
 George Moir, Esq. of Scotstown.

The Committee, on 28th December, 1784, fitted and settled the accounts of their management, which were deposited in the archives of the town. From these accounts it appears, that the Committee imported into Aberdeen, from the continent, and from England, the following quantities of grain and meal, betwixt the beginning of January and the end of July, 1783, at the annexed *cu-mulo* prices:—

#### ACCOUNT OF OATS, BEAR, BARLEY, AND MEAL, IMPORTED.

|                                                      | <i>Sacks.</i> | <i>Quarters.</i> | <i>Bolls.</i> | <i>Price.</i> |
|------------------------------------------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|
| To Oats, without charges—average, per boll, 18s. 3d. | —             | —                | 4349          | L.3,974 10 6  |
| — Oat meal .....do.....do.....L.1 4s.                | —             | —                | 4493          | 4,564 7 6     |
| — Bear .....                                         | —             | —                | 100           | 125 18 0      |
| — Bear meal .....                                    | —             | —                | 140           | 139 13 0      |
| — Barley .....                                       | —             | 619              | —             | 925 3 0       |
| — Pease meal .....                                   | 402           | —                | —             | 552 1 9       |
| — Flour .....                                        | 1190          | —                | —             | 2,443 13 0    |
| — Meal, Wheat, &c. ....                              | 99            | —                | —             | 165 15 0      |
| — White pease .....                                  | 514           | —                | —             | 843 0 3       |
|                                                      | 2205          | 619              | 9082          | L.13,704 2 0  |

† Mr. Bannerman is now the only surviving Member of this Committee.

raised ; and the Aberdeen Bank and the Bank of Scotland\* agreed to advance money, for twelve months, free of interest. By these means, the Committee were enabled to purchase corn on the continent ; supplies of various kinds of grain were obtained from England ; and the poor people were prevented from feeling, in so great a degree, distresses, to which they would otherwise have been exposed by the failure of the crop.

On the 24th of December, a meeting of the gentlemen of landed property was also held at Aberdeen, for the purpose of enquiring into the state of the crop, and the probable quantity of corn that might be wanted to supply the inhabitants of the county. At this time it appeared, that great quantities of grain were remaining, uncut down, in many parts of the country ; and it was the general opinion, that it would require nearly three bolls of the best oats to yield one boll of meal. From these and other circumstances, it was computed, that to give the inhabitants their usual quantum of meal, there would be wanted no less than 220,000 bolls,† over and above what might be expected from the produce of the county.

S S

By

---

\* The town subscribed three hundred guineas, from the public funds ; and the remainder was subscribed by individuals of the town. The Aberdeen Bank and Bank of Scotland agreed to advance L.3000 each, for twelve months, free of interest.

† The following statement was made up, some time afterwards, by the late Dr. James Anderson of Mounie, on the subject of the crop 1782 :—

“ It was computed, that, in an ordinary year, the expenditure of 100 bolls of great oats might be thus allocated : 75 for meal, which would, on an average, yield 70 bolls of meal ; and 25 bolls for seed. Of the present crop, instead of 25 bolls for seed, it was supposed, that, on account of the badness of its quality, 30 bolls at least would be wanted ; but 30 bolls of the 75 being lost by waste, there would remain only 45 ; which, on an average, between one half and two thirds meal, would yield  $18\frac{1}{2}$  bolls, (being little more than one fifth part of the usual quantity,) instead of 70, which were appropriated to that purpose in an ordinary year.

“ To ascertain what would be the deficiency for the whole county ; assuming these facts as data, it was supposed, that the whole population of Aberdeenshire was nearly 131,000 ; and, allowing one peck of meal to each person per week, the consumption of the whole county would be upwards of 300,000 bolls, for one year.

“ It was admitted, that the county used to supply its whole inhabitants with corn, in an ordinary year, and no more ; for it appeared, from the Custom-house books, that the exports and imports, including transportation coast-wise, in both cases, were, on an average of years, nearly equal.

“ From



A.D. 1782.

By the great exertions of the Committee of the citizens, and the steady measures which they pursued, for upwards of a year, an abundant supply of meal was obtained for the inhabitants, and the few privations which they experienced during that period of scarcity were.

---

“ From the above data, it appeared, that, instead of 300,000 bolls of meal, the county would this year have no more than 79,000, say 80,000, so that, to give the inhabitants their usual supply, there would be wanted 220,000.

“ To make up this deficiency, the malting of bear was to be given up by all ranks, and it was supposed, that about one half of the usual quantity of bear raised in the county, estimated at 80,000 bolls nearly, viz. 40,000 bolls, would be made into meal; which, at  $1\frac{1}{2}$  bolls from a boll of bear, would yield, of meal, to be applied to food

|                |
|----------------|
| Bolls...60,000 |
|----------------|

“ To make up the deficiency, it was computed, that there would be a saving in the quantity consumed by the lower ranks of people, which, if estimated at about one eighth part of the usual consumption, would amount to about

|        |
|--------|
| 35,000 |
|--------|

“ By accelerating the harvest, by sowing early grain, and mealing it as soon as possible, there might be saved the consumption of one month nearly, or

|        |
|--------|
| 25,000 |
|--------|

“ And as the harvest this year was very late, and the former crop abundant, it was supposed, that, in case of a favourable season, and beginning very soon to early potatoes, another month's consumption might be saved, *inde*

|        |
|--------|
| 25,000 |
|--------|

|                                                                       |   |         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---------|
| “ Total quantity that can be made up by the whole crop of the county, | - | 145,000 |
| Which, deducted from the former deficiency of the county, being       | - | 220,000 |

|                                       |   |        |
|---------------------------------------|---|--------|
| Would still leave to be provided for, | - | 75,000 |
|---------------------------------------|---|--------|

“ This was considered to be the *minimum* quantity that would be wanted for the county; but that probably it would require more. Had not the prices risen very early, and the people been put upon their guard, at an early period, to attend to every possible saving, there must have been at least 50,000 additional bolls wanted.

“ This estimate had been made with so much care, and the measures adopted were so steadily pursued throughout the whole year, that it afterwards appeared, by the Custom-house books, that, between the 1st of November, 1782, and the 1st of November, 1783, there had been imported into the county, from various places, considerably above 80,000 bolls of grain, of all sorts; which is 20,000 more than the whole quantity of bread corn, the produce of the crop of the county, that could be applied towards the sustenance of the people for that year, of which a considerable quantity was pease. But as the Custom-house limits of the port of Aberdeen include some part of the Mearns, there is reason to believe that the estimate was, in all its parts, very near the truth. This brought to light a series of facts, of a very uncommon nature:—1. That a crop may be so deficient, through the extreme unfavourableness of the weather during a particular season, as not to leave one fourth part of the quantity of bread-corn produced, and consumed by the inhabitants, in an ordinary year; and 2d. That in the event of such a deficiency happening in a country, chiefly depending on agriculture, it is possible, by means of œconomy and attention, and a spirit of sobriety, to overcome it, without experiencing the calamity of a famine.”

were soon forgotten. The Committee having finally settled the accounts of their management, it was found, that the voluntary contributions fully indemnified them of every loss upon their transactions, except a few pounds, which were paid by the treasurer of Aberdeen.\* A.D. 1782  
As an equivalent for this loss, the inhabitants had been provided with meal, at a moderate price, far under what could have been at first expected; and at no time were there any murmurs among the people, or any indications of popular tumult. Fortunately for the gentlemen of the Committee, as well as for the people themselves, the practices of forestalling and monopoly, which, according to general opinion, tend to raise the price of corn,† were little known at the time; and no undue speculations were attempted by any one, so as to inflame the minds of the people, or to occasion disturbances in the town during this interesting period.

When the war with the American States was drawing to a close, many eminent statesmen began to direct their attention to the important question of parliamentary reform, which had, for some time, agitated the public mind, and for the attainment of which object, associations had become general and numerous in various parts of the kingdom. The subject was introduced into the Commons House of Parliament, this session, by that distinguished statesman Mr. William Pitt, who had recently obtained a seat for Appleby. His eloquence was employed, for many days, in displaying the imperfections of the constitution, which, while it continued such as it had been formed by our ancestors, was, he said, “truly called a production of the most consummate wisdom. But a melancholy series of events, which had eclipsed the glory of Britain, had exhibited a reverse of fortune, which could be accounted for only upon this principle, that, during the last fifteen years, there had been a deviation from the principles of that happy constitution, under which the people of England had

1782.  
May 7.

s s 2

so

---

\* This loss arose from freight, insurance, bounties, milling, and incidental expenses, which never were made a charge upon the prime cost of the corn and meal which were imported, so as to affect the poor.

† By the fiars of the county for 1782, the price of a boll of oat-meal was only L.1; and in the preceding year, when the harvest was abundant, it was 13s.

A.D. 1783. so long flourished." Mr. Pitt then submitted to the consideration of the house three resolutions; one of which was, that measures ought to be adopted for preventing bribery and expenses at elections; another, for the total extinction of every borough, when the majority of it became notoriously incapable, by every species of bribery and corruption, of discharging its political functions; and the third, for the addition of a certain number of representatives of the counties, the proportioning or apportioning of whom to each county he proposed to leave to be settled in the bill, for which he intended to move, if his resolutions should be adopted. These were ably supported by Sir George Saville, Mr. Fox, Mr. Sheridan, and by other members; but they were opposed by the ministerial party, on the ground that no defect in the constitution had been proved, and that to adopt them would be attended with dangerous consequences to the constitution. The majority was accordingly against Mr. Pitt's resolutions. He, however, persevered, with indefatigable zeal, in the object of his views; and, in the subsequent session of parliament, brought forward a bill, for reform of the representation, under a new shape, and on a different plan, but it met with a similar fate, being lost by a great majority. Mr. Pitt being now called to fill the highest office in the administration, his talents were employed in the more important matters of the state. Although he often expressed himself a decided friend to the cause of reform, yet he declared his conviction, that recent events, which had happened in a neighbouring kingdom, and the situation of the times, rendered innovation of every description unseasonable and dangerous; and the cause of parliamentary reform was, therefore, abandoned by its most respectable patrons.

These circumstances had, at an early period, aroused the minds of many creditable individuals in Scotland, who had united their efforts for a more defined, as well as an equally patriotic purpose. Their object was to ameliorate the decayed system of the royal boroughs of Scotland, which had become corrupt, and was inconsistent with liberty, and the true interests of the community. They complained, not without cause, of infringements of their rights, and waste and dilapidation of the public funds and property,  
through



through the improper exercise of the authority of magistrates, who were self-elected, and against whose usurpation of power no existing law had provided a remedy. A.D. 1783.

Among the earliest to forward a plan for obtaining, by constitutional means, a radical redress of these grievances, were several patriotic citizens of Aberdeen.\* Mr. Pitt being, at this time, a zealous supporter of parliamentary reform, no one was better qualified than he to form a just conception of their complaints, or to promote the objects they had in view. In the month of February, this year, a spirited letter, under the signature of *Civis*, was addressed to him on this important subject, in which the writer displayed a thorough knowledge of the ancient constitution of the royal boroughs of Scotland, and of the abuses and corruptions which had taken place in modern times, in the administration of their public affairs. He, at the same time, pointed out, with much energy, the bad consequences which had resulted to the community at large from the exercise of that system under which they were, at present, governed; and urged, in the strongest terms, the necessity of an immediate reform, under the authority of parliament.

This letter, and a continuation of others, from the same writer,† 1784. as well as from *Zeno*, of Edinburgh, on this question, made a deep impression on those who favoured reform, and speedily attracted the attention of many of the burgesses of the principal royal boroughs of the kingdom, particularly Aberdeen. In order to contribute to the attainment of this momentous and desirable object, an association was formed of the independent burgesses of the town, who delegated the necessary powers to a committee of their number, under

---

\* There had been, previous to this time, a meeting of the burgesses of Edinburgh, where reform in the system under which the royal boroughs were governed had been agitated; but, as yet, no definite plan had been adopted, for conducting matters upon constitutional principles.

† The author of these letters, we have no hesitation in saying, was Mr. Ewen, of Aberdeen, who took a very active part, both in the committee of the burgesses, and in the annual convention at Edinburgh, while the question of reform was in agitation; and, if we are not greatly mistaken, he wrote most of the public papers which were published, under the directions of the committee, at that period.

A.D. 1784. der a president, secretary, and clerk.\* These, for several years, conducted, with exemplary prudence and moderation, the business entrusted to their charge, unaccompanied with any indication of popular disorder. The example of Aberdeen was soon followed by the burgesses of other towns, and a general convention, composed of delegates from the several royal boroughs, was afterwards appointed to meet annually at Edinburgh, to concert the measures proper to be adopted for obtaining that necessary and important change in this branch of the civil government of the kingdom. Of this general convention, Robert Graham, Esq. of Gartmore was nominated president, and John Ewen, Esq. of Aberdeen, secretary.

The committee of burgesses of Aberdeen, although they disavowed every charge of a personal nature against the magistrates and council, yet maintained that the expenditure of the public funds was not conducted with wisdom or œconomy, or with due regard to the true interest of the community; and that the burgesses, who contributed liberally to these funds, were deprived of the privilege of seeing the public accounts, so as to form a judgment upon the application of the money, or the propriety of the expenditure. They, therefore, in the course of this year, required the magistrates and council to exhibit to them the public accounts, under their administration, as well as the records of the borough, in order that they might examine them with due attention and deliberation, and point out what might be considered as having been misapplied or exceptionable in these accounts. After some differences between them and the magistrates, concerning the mode of accomplishing this object, had been accommodated, the books and records appear to have undergone a strict scrutiny and examination by that committee. Although, in the course of their investigation, no specific charge of improper application of the public funds had been brought against the magistrates, or any of the office-bearers, yet many articles of the treasury accounts were severely animadverted upon, perhaps not without some cause. At the same time,

---

\* Of this committee, the late Patrick Barron, Esq. of Woodside, was President; and the members who survive are—John Ewen, Esq. merchant, Secretary; John Niven, Esq. of Peebles; William Forbes, Esq. of Echt; and Robert Gibbon, Esq. merchant.

time, they complained loudly of want of œconomy ; of the abuses of A.D. 1785.  
levying and collecting sums of money from the citizens, above the extent which was warranted by law ; of the facility of borrowing money, on the credit of the treasury, without the consent of the citizens ; and of other grievances, arising, in general, from mismanagement of the public funds. These circumstances were early communicated, by the committee, to their constituents, in their various reports and statements, which were published at the time.\*

In

---

\* In the course of the examination of the public accounts, and of the investigation of the affairs under the administration of the magistrates and council, the committee of burgesses complained chiefly of the mode of assessing the inhabitants for the public cess, by charging annually large sums of money over and above what was strictly necessary for the expense of levying and discharging it. Their enquiries led them to discover, that, in the year 1756, a report † had been made by a committee of the town council, in relation to the affairs of the treasury, from which they discovered, that, at that time, the annual income of the treasurer, taking an average of several years, was—

|                                         |   |   |   |        |    |   |   |
|-----------------------------------------|---|---|---|--------|----|---|---|
|                                         |   |   |   | L.1102 | 0  | 3 | 6 |
| And that the average of expenditure was | - | - | - | 1507   | 13 | 2 | 4 |

---

So that the treasury was then incurring an annual accumulating debt of - L.405 12 10 10

The committee of burgesses, in their statements to the public on this important matter, remarked, that it had been the opinion of the committee of council, in the year 1756, after seeing the above state, “ That it was unnecessary to say any thing of the absolute necessity of immediately using all proper methods for increasing the town’s revenue, and of retrenching public expense ; for it was easy to foresee, that, if the present system was continued, the treasurer, in a very few years, must prove insolvent, as he incurred a debt, every year, of no less than L.400 sterling.” This committee suggested a variety of expedients for recovery of debts due to the town, and for withdrawing certain articles which were in use to be charged to the treasury. Their report was concluded in the following words :—

“ Although this be no immediate lessening of the expense, yet the council, who are well acquainted with the advantage of keeping regular accounts, will easily see that, in its consequences, it will have that effect. The committee are very sensible, that the execution of some of the above proposals are far from being desirable, were the funds in a flourishing way ; but they are afraid, if some methods for reducing *the great expense* is not speedily taken, the council will, in a short time, be obliged to use remedies far less desirable ; and, after all, supposing the whole of these methods for increasing the revenue, and reducing the expense, were made effectual, it will not nearly balance the great sum by which the yearly expenditure exceeds the income. The committee will, therefore, be excused for saying, that it is an incumbent duty on the council to frame effectual regulations for keeping the other incidental expenses, to which the town has of late been subjected, within some mo-

† Council Register, vol. xlii. p. 107. 121. et seq.



In the prosecution of the plan for accomplishing a reform in the political system of the boroughs, the heads of a bill intended to be presented

The committee of burgesses then proceed to detail, in their report, that, in the year 1756, the annual income of the treasurer was - - - L.1022 12 3 6

When these indisputable facts are taken into consideration, and it is had in view that the citizens have contributed so largely to bear the expense of every improvement: and that the debt in that year was

|   |   |   |        |    |   |
|---|---|---|--------|----|---|
| - | - | - | 12,383 | 14 | 7 |
|---|---|---|--------|----|---|

“ There appears to be something altogether inexplicable in the management of the funds of the treasury. With an almost unaccountable fatality, to which it seems to have been subjected, it has never been suffered to turn, either to its own benefit, or that of the public, any one of the fortunate circumstances with which it has been eminently favoured. Nay, on the contrary, every fund with which it has connected itself has been materially injured by it ; for while it was the duty of the council, as stewards of these funds, to improve their endowments to the best account, for the purposes for which they were instituted, their predilection for this favourite object has disposed them to draw into its vortex every advantage. While these establishments have been obliged to furnish it with money, at a reduced interest, often to purchase their own property, which they have been forced to buy back at an advanced price, the constant drain made upon them has been injurious to their interests, and has not, in any degree, been permitted to place the treasury in more easy circumstances.

“ Not many years previous to 1756, a period, in which it is seen, from the report of the committee of council, that the treasury was in no very thriving condition, one very considerable effort was made in its favour. The establishment of the Bridge of Dee held the lands of Gilcomston as part of its revenue. These had been originally purchased by the treasurer, from the family of Pitfoddels, and sold by him to the Bridge of Dee fund, under the management of the master of kirk and bridge works, about the year 1674, for L.1500 sterling. In 1750, the master of kirk and bridge works, by an order of council, sold these lands back again to the treasurer, for the original price of L.1500. As soon as the treasurer became proprietor, the lands were divided in lots, and feued out, at a very advanced rent. Part of the feu duty was paid instantly into the hands of the treasurer, and the remaining annual feu duties, neat, as they now stand, were L.197 10s. 9d. In 1756, after this advantage, acquired from the money sunk, by advance, in the treasurer's hands, that officer was appointed by the council to sell the feu duties and casualties, agreeably to the advanced rental, back again to the Bridge fund, from which these lands had been so recently purchased. Thus, by this transaction alone, singular as it may appear, the treasury derived a benefit, as we are assured, of upwards

presented to Parliament, were this year drawn up by the general convention, at Edinburgh, and dispersed among the burghesses. The out-

T t

lines

---

of two thousand pounds. Indeed it has, with very few exceptions, been an invariable rule, whenever feus have been granted, of lands, or commons, the property of the community, to oblige the holders of these lands, on receiving their charters, to advance, sometimes a fourth, frequently a fifth, of the value, by which large sums have been sunk in the treasury, of the particulars of which the citizens have had no information. These sums, amounting to more than would be easily credited by those who have not had access to be acquainted with them, have answered immediate purposes; but they are now no more to be heard of, having been swallowed up in the oblivion of passing years; and while the citizens had reason to believe that these large acquisitions, joined to a vast and increasing revenue, had rendered rich and independent the public treasury, the late enquiries only have awakened them from the golden dream, and presented to their surprised imagination exhausted funds, and a very heavy load of debt, annually increasing, and without a prospect of its being freed from its incumbrances.

“ Those who will give but the slightest attention to the income of the treasury, in 1756, and the prodigious difference in its receipt in 1785, must be impressed with conviction and astonishment. In the first period, hardly any of the community's common lands were feued out; at least, such as were, bore but a very small proportion to the present fixed produce. The shore lands were a mere trifle. These together now amount to many hundreds a year. The annual feu duty of the ground on which two houses in the shore lands are now built amount to as much as the then rental of the whole. It is now almost covered with houses; and some early purchasers, besides sitting rent-free, receive now a clear income of three times the sum they themselves pay. Whatever portion of these lands, in the vicinity of the harbour, are yet to be let, the value is still advancing. Very lately, the ground upon which one house is to be built has been let at L.10 per annum. These are parts only of the increasing advantages derived to the public funds of the city, from the industry and commerce of the community, in the last thirty years.

“ By almost every public improvement, the interest of the funds has been promoted; yet we have seen, that, in this flourishing and distinguished period, taxes have been considerably raised upon the citizens, and yet the public debt, far from being diminished in proportion to the increasing income, has been marked by a progress directly the reverse. From the public institutions money is borrowed, for the use of the treasurer, at a reduced rate of interest, while individuals are allowed the customary interest of 5 per cent. This will evidently appear from the state of the treasury debts annexed. When the mortification funds collectively were made to furnish what they could spare from their loans, to the treasury, to purchase the estate of Muchals, after the lands were let in lease, the return was barely 4 per cent. At this period, the annuitants upon the mortifications were reduced in their annual allowance, and have not since been advanced. An opportunity offering of purchasing back the lease from the tenant, who had considerably improved the rental, it was natural to suppose that, as the transaction appeared advantageous, it would have been made for the mortification funds, that their income, which so much wanted it, and had been reduced by its connection with this estate, might thereby be improved. There was the greater reason for this supposition, as most part of these lands were the property of these funds. This, however, did not happen. The usual preference given to the treasury also predominated upon this



A.D. 1786. lines of the bill touched principally upon the mode of electing the successive councils, which were now proposed to be chosen by a poll of  
of

---

occasion, and, although it was obliged to borrow money from every quarter, the purchase was made solely on its account, to throw the advantage to be derived from the transaction into its funds.

“ The treasury accordingly purchased the remainder of the lease for L.1000, and the balance of the rental of the whole estate, in favour of the treasury, as it is stated in 1785, is L.155 19s. per annum. As it has been asserted, that the treasury has been affected by every public improvement, it may not be improper briefly to take a view of these for the last twenty years, by which, we are inclined to believe, that it will appear the very reverse has happened. The funds of the treasury, indeed, are, properly speaking, the funds of the community, and, in their original endowment, were intended to be improved for the common benefit of the citizens. Their primary destination is for “ the uphalde of honestie, and sound policie, within the burrough”—and their produce appointed “ to be waired upon the common warks of the town.” Unfortunately the present system of borough government has reversed the order of things, and has established a distinction, in fact, between the interests of the council and those of the community. That “ the good of the town is the good of the treasury,” although become altogether proverbial, and given as the principal article in the creed of a thorough-paced counsellor, is a saying, in which there is fully more truth than wit, yet it conveys a very strong meaning, however absurd the position may be in the abstract.

“ The treasury funds are unfortunately accessible upon every occasion, and money can be drawn from them for every possible occurrence which can extend the power, or raise the political influence of those whose ambition or interest may dispose them to acquire, and enable them to hold, the direction of all public measures. Indeed, the greatest misfortune which could have happened to the interest of the citizens, is the facility with which the magistrates have been able to borrow money from the other funds, under the administration of the council, for the ordinary purposes of the treasury, without consulting the citizens; nay, even without their having the most distant knowledge of these transactions. To increase this misfortune, a practice has obtained, of mingling with the treasury funds every public money transaction, and, by some means or other, every other fund has been made to blend its transactions with them. To favour this design, the most fallacious language has been employed, by asserting, that for the debts of every public fund, “ the funds of the treasury were subsidiary liable.” Although this phrase has acquired a currency, by being repeated almost upon every occasion, by people in office, yet there cannot be a grosser solecism in language, nor a more direct insult upon the understanding of those who have an opportunity of being better informed. To talk of the funds of the treasury being liable for the public debts of the community, when its destinations are either already fixed, or its funds secured for the interests of its own particular debts, and to which, and its specific destinations, it has not for a century past been equal, is to hold a language only fit for the ear of children or fools. Yet this language has been held in the most public manner, when the debt contracted, in consequence of the act of parliament, subjecting merchandize to considerable additional impositions for the improvement of the harbour, has been pleaded as a reason for laying upon trade restraints still heavier, and rendering the restrictive rights of corporations much more severe.”

The following is an Account of the Receipt and Expenditure of the Treasury Funds, from Michaelmas, 1778, to Michaelmas, 1779, and of the public debt, at Michaelmas, 1785, as published by the Committee of Burgesses.

ABSTRACT



of the burgesses of the respective royal boroughs; and the appointment of seven auditors for examining the annual public accounts of the several

A.D. 1780.

T t 2

ABSTRACT ACCOUNT OF THE RECEIPT AND EXPENDITURE OF THE TREASURY FUNDS  
OF THE  
CITY OF ABERDEEN,

*From Michaelmas, 1778, to Michaelmas, 1779.*

| RECEIPT.                                                                   |   |  |  |  |       | Sterling. |    |       |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|--|--|--|-------|-----------|----|-------|
|                                                                            |   |  |  |  |       | £.        | s. | d.    |
| 1. Feu, Teind, and Tack Duties of Lands and Fishings belonging to the town | - |  |  |  |       | 843       | 18 | 7     |
| 2. Rents of Shops and Lofts, the property of the town                      | - |  |  |  |       | 24        | 1  | 1     |
| 3. Tack Duties of Mills                                                    | - |  |  |  | £.187 | 0         | 0  |       |
| ..... Petty Customs                                                        | - |  |  |  | 166   | 13        | 4  |       |
| ..... Flesh Market                                                         | - |  |  |  | 47    | 6         | 3  |       |
| ..... Weigh-house                                                          | - |  |  |  | 100   | 0         | 0  |       |
|                                                                            |   |  |  |  |       | 500       | 19 | 7     |
| 4. Proportion of Seat-rents of Churches                                    | - |  |  |  |       | 56        | 14 | 0     |
| 5. Grinding Wheat at Flour-mill                                            | - |  |  |  |       | 7         | 0  | 0     |
| Mort-cloth                                                                 | - |  |  |  |       | 36        | 2  | 11    |
| Taxation for Streets, Water, and Lamps                                     | - |  |  |  |       | 555       | 4  | 2     |
| Interest of Money due to the town                                          | - |  |  |  |       | 81        | 15 | 0     |
| Fund for part payment of the Professor of Divinity's stipend, L.100        | - |  |  |  |       | 79        | 8  | 1     |
| Composition received for a vassal, Dean of Guild's Casualties, viz.:       |   |  |  |  |       |           |    |       |
| Fines                                                                      | - |  |  |  | £.12  | 14        | 2  |       |
| Entering Burgesses of Guild, this year                                     | - |  |  |  | 142   | 0         | 0  |       |
| Trades Compositions                                                        | - |  |  |  | 4     | 1         | 6  |       |
| Entering Apprentices                                                       | - |  |  |  | 2     | 17        | 10 |       |
| Ale Sellers                                                                | - |  |  |  | 6     | 13        | 4  |       |
|                                                                            |   |  |  |  |       | 168       | 6  | 10    |
| Sum Receipt                                                                |   |  |  |  |       | £.2359    | 15 | 3 sic |

| EXPENDITURE.                                                                     |   |  |  |  |  |        |    |   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|--|--|--|--|--------|----|---|
| 1. Ministers' Stipends                                                           | - |  |  |  |  | £.420  | 2  | 7 |
| 2. Town's Eque                                                                   | - |  |  |  |  | 19     | 5  | 6 |
| 3. Missive Dues to Boroughs                                                      | - |  |  |  |  | 50     | 15 | 2 |
| 4. Commissioners' (to Boroughs) Charges                                          | - |  |  |  |  | 39     | 6  | 8 |
| 5. Annual Rents of the Town's Debts                                              | - |  |  |  |  | 490    | 11 | 7 |
| 6. Public Salaries, viz. School-masters, Precentors, Jailors, Town Officers, &c. | - |  |  |  |  | 478    | 7  | 9 |
| 7. Teind Duties, and Annuities for Town's Lands                                  | - |  |  |  |  | 10     | 10 | 8 |
| 8. Fen Duty of the Meal Market                                                   | - |  |  |  |  | 10     | 0  | 0 |
| 9. Reparations of Public Buildings                                               | - |  |  |  |  | 266    | 19 | 7 |
| Carried forward                                                                  |   |  |  |  |  | £.1785 | 19 | 6 |

A.D. 1786. veral office-bearers; but this bill, although it seemed to have met with the approbation of those who were immediately interested in it,

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                          |   |        |     |               |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|---|--------|-----|---------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Brought forward          | - | £.1785 | 19  | 6             |
| 10. Supporting Public Streets, Wells, and Lamps                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | -                        | - | 515    | 1   | 2             |
| 11. Paid, in part, the Well Debt, the annual sum of                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | -                        | - | 12     | 10  | 0             |
| 12. Incidental expenses, including Premiums for Schools, Stationary Articles, and Acts of Parliament, Magistrates' expence at Brechin attending the election of a Member of Parliament, this year, Coal and Candle to the Town-house, Newspapers, alimentering poor Prisoners, &c. &c. |                          |   |        |     | <i>sic</i>    |
| 13. Law expenses                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | -                        | - | -      | -   | -             |
| 14. Tavern expenses, and for entertainments in the Town-house                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | -                        | - | 28     | 3   | 0             |
| 15. Election Dinner and Supper at Michaelmas                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | -                        | - | 10     | 9   | 10            |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                          |   |        |     |               |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Sum ordinary Expenditure | - | £.2567 | 11  | 0 <i>sic</i>  |
| <i>Extraordinary Expenditure, this year.</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                          |   |        |     |               |
| For opening a Street to the Town's Churches and Mills, by                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                          |   |        |     |               |
| Barnet's Close                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | -                        | - | £.113  | 0   | 0             |
| For new Roads                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | -                        | - | 75     | 3   | 0             |
| Bounty Money to Army and Navy                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | -                        | - | 33     | 12  | 0             |
| Associates for internal Defence                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | -                        | - | 6      | 18  | 11            |
| Admission for a Minister                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | -                        | - | £.24   | 9   | 0             |
| To a decayed Burgess                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | -                        | - | 5      | 0   | 0             |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                          |   |        | 29  | 9 0           |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                          |   |        | 285 | 2 11          |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                          |   |        |     |               |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Total Expenditure        | - | £.2825 | 13  | 11 <i>sic</i> |

### DEBT OF THE TREASURY OF ABERDEEN,

*As at Michaelmas, 1785.*

|                                            |                 |       |         |      |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------------|-------|---------|------|
| To the Master of Guild Brethren's Hospital | -               | £.500 | 0       | 0    |
| To the Master of Kirk and Bridge Works     | -               | 325   | 4       | 0    |
| To the Master of Mortifications            | -               | 1622  | 2       | 9    |
| To the Dean of Guild                       | -               | 1621  | 0       | 0    |
| To Lady Durris' Mortification              | -               | 1300  | 0       | 0    |
| To Mr. Gerrard's ditto                     | -               | 190   | 7       | 10   |
| To the Treasurer of Gordon's Hospital      | -               | 1300  | 0       | 0    |
| To ditto of ditto                          | -               | 1000  | 0       | 0    |
| To Saint Paul's Chapel                     | -               | 500   | 0       | 0    |
| To the Kirk Session of Aberdeen            | -               | 900   | 0       | 0    |
| To the Infirmary of Aberdeen               | -               | 2000  | 0       | 0    |
| To James Allardyce                         | -               | 1100  | 0       | 0    |
| To James Johnston                          | -               | 500   | 0       | 0    |
|                                            |                 |       |         |      |
|                                            | Carried forward | -     | £.12858 | 14 7 |

it, does not appear to have been presented to parliament, as some pre- A.D. 1786.  
paratory matters were yet only in their progress to maturity.

The committees, however, did not relax in their endeavours to ob- 1788.  
tain the necessary information and documents, for enabling them to accomplish their avowed object. In the course of this year, their grievances were fully stated, in petitions, which were presented to the Commons, in the month of July, by Mr. Sheridan, who introduced a bill for correcting the abuses and supplying the defects in the internal government of the royal boroughs of Scotland; and also for establishing a proper responsibility of their magistrates for their intromissions with the property and annual revenues thereof. The bill being read a first time, it was ordered, that there be laid before the house notarial copies of the charters and sets of the several royal boroughs, which order was, in due time, complied with.

In the subsequent session of parliament, a new bill, of the same 1789.  
nature with the former, was presented, and read a first time, without opposition. In supporting it, on the second reading, the honourable member stated, that he had been actuated solely by public motives in this business, and by a wish that the inhabitants of North Britain might enjoy the blessings of civil liberty in their full force, equally with the English. He was convinced that various grievances existed in the administration of the Scottish boroughs, which loudly called for reformation. Of sixty-six royal boroughs, no fewer than fifty-two had concurred in the plan of reform held out by the present bill, and forty had sent delegates to Edinburgh, to form a general convention

|                                                      |                 |   |         |    |   |
|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|---|---------|----|---|
|                                                      | Brought forward | - | £.12858 | 14 | 7 |
| To James Thain                                       | -               | - | 400     | 0  | 0 |
| To Miss Campbell                                     | -               | - | 250     | 0  | 0 |
| To Miss Wilson                                       | -               | - | 150     | 0  | 0 |
| To Mrs. Gordon                                       | -               | - | 100     | 0  | 0 |
|                                                      |                 |   | £.13758 |    |   |
| By Robt. Dyce, Wm. Littlejohn, and James Young, lent |                 |   | 1250    | 0  | 0 |
| By the Master of Mortifications, paid in part        |                 | - | 125     | 0  | 0 |
|                                                      |                 |   | 1375    |    |   |
|                                                      |                 |   | £.12383 |    |   |

\* The foregoing notes have been taken from the preface to the proceedings of the Burgesses, in the years 1785, et seq. p. 42, et seq.



A.D. 1789. convention for adopting the measures necessary for carrying it into effect; while a majority of the people of Scotland, exclusive of those who were interested in the preservation of the form of corporation government as it now stood, were friendly to the objects of this bill. These were, to render the magistrates and town councils responsible to the burgesses for the administration of the public revenues, and to put a stop to that self election which prevailed in the corporations. There was no judicature that could compel the magistrates to give any account of the application of the corporation funds. "The natural consequences of this want of responsibility," Mr. Sheridan said, "were a waste of the revenues; tyranny, and oppression, of various kinds; and the imposition of occasional taxes on the people that were not strictly conformable to law. The extravagance of expenditure that prevailed in the corporations had produced, in many of them, a load of debt, which they were unable to discharge by any ordinary means. It was also highly absurd and derogatory to the fair maxims of government, that a set of magistrates of a borough should elect each other, instead of the election being in the hands of the burgesses at large. Persons who had no opportunity of knowing the affairs of Scotland would readily suppose that these principles, irresponsibility and self election, were productive of great abuses; and this was really the case."

On an examination of most of the charters of the royal boroughs, it appeared, that forty of these contained clauses in favour of that plan, which was the object of the bill, and only five sanctioned the present form of government. Hence it was evident, that the bill aimed at no annihilation of those rights, but sought only to restore the original established governments of the boroughs, and to prevent the abuses which were the consequence of a deviation from the spirit of their constitution. The case of the borough of Stirling was stated as an instance where an alteration of the original charter had been granted. That borough had, some years previously, been disfranchised, for delinquency; but, on being favoured with a restoration of its franchises and privileges, had received, under the auspices of the Lord Advocate of Scotland at the time, a charter, which granted almost the whole of what was desired by the present bill. Mr. Sheridan concluded

cluded with requesting the house to weigh this subject in their minds with candour and impartiality, the result of which would, he hoped, be favourable to the purposed reform;—a reform which was essentially necessary to the prosperity and happiness of the community of Scotland; and was not only consistent with views of sound policy, but also a matter of common justice. The honourable member was ably supported by Sir George Saville, Sir Thomas Dundas, afterwards Lord Dundas, and several other eminent members, who had zealously espoused the cause, both of borough and parliamentary reform. A.D. 1789.

Mr. Dundas, afterwards Lord Melville, combated the bill, and reasoned in an opposite manner. He said, that it would require a considerable time to discuss a proposition of such magnitude as the present, which went to the extent of annihilating the chartered constitution of a number of ancient boroughs, without proof of abuse or grievance, in compliance with the chimeras of an honourable gentleman, who, without any local knowledge of the boroughs to which those charters belonged, aimed at a general reform in their constitutions. The petitions presented from the royal boroughs were said to be signed by about 9000 persons, but, if the grievances complained of really existed, the signatures would have been infinitely more numerous. The fact, indeed, was, that the abuses alleged were merely imaginary, and the Scottish nation did not feel them to exist. But even if there were some grievances in the government of these boroughs, it was not the business of the house to interfere, in any measure, for the purpose of obtaining the abolition of charters granted by the crown, and not by parliament.

But, independent of these considerations, Mr. Dundas maintained, that it would be an encroachment on the royal prerogative; and that nothing ought to have been proposed without his Majesty's consent. Besides, the reform now suggested would not only overturn the present mode of election in the boroughs, but would also make a total change in their parliamentary representation; and would be an infringement of the articles of union. The consequence of the proposed changes, such as the making the election of the magistrates and town council annual, the putting it in the hands of all the burgesses,

A.D. 1789. gesses, &c. would tend to create anarchy and confusion, and to introduce all the disorders which generally attended popular elections.

With regard to the two leading points, stated by the mover of the bill, the honourable member observed, that the first was founded on misrepresentation; for it was not a fact, that the magistrates were irresponsible for mal-administration of the public funds. On the contrary, it was in the power, either of the king's advocate, or of the convention of royal boroughs, to institute a complaint for any malversation. The burgesses had applied to the wrong court, for redress of their grievances; and, being disappointed, some of them ridiculously complained, that there was no judicature competent to take cognizance of any misapplication of the funds under the management of magistrates. The other point was that of self election, a point which was not a grievance. It was rarely allowed to the public at large, in any regular government, to elect their own magistrates and justices. After various other remarks by Mr. Dundas, and some other members, who were inimical to the proposed reform, the bill was rejected, without a division.

These inauspicious circumstances, although they had frustrated the exertions of the burgesses on the present occasion, did not damp their ardour for reform; nor did the local committees, or the general convention at Edinburgh, abate their zeal in the arduous work which they had undertaken. The burgesses again assembled, by their delegates, in their annual convention, at Edinburgh, in the month of 1790. August, this year, when they took under their consideration the report of the London committee, and the proceedings of the general convention, as well as the fate of the bill which had been presented to the House of Commons. Being still impressed with the firmest conviction both of the existence of enormous abuses in the administration of the boroughs, and of the high expediency and public utility of reform, they resolved to pursue, with inflexible perseverance, the most effectual constitutional measures for regulating the internal government of the boroughs, by destroying the present pernicious systems; and never to abandon what they regarded as essential to the attainment of objects of the highest advantage



tage to the national spirit, and to the industry and prosperity of Scotland. With these views, they determined to introduce the business again into parliament, by a new bill, for which they had already given the necessary instructions. A.D. 1790.

In the present session, a new bill was accordingly presented, by Mr. Sheridan, in almost the same terms with the former ; but it encountered the same opposition, and met with a similar fate, being rejected, on the second reading, without a division. 1792—May.

These discouragements from parliament did not, however, abate the spirit of reform. The burgesses, with indefatigable zeal, persevered in their endeavours to accomplish, by legal and constitutional means, the object of their views ; and many distinguished statesmen having now joined their committees, afforded them their firmest support. After the fate of the last bill, it was purposed to adopt a different plan of operation. The London Committee,\* at their first meeting, in the last session of parliament, entirely approving of the spirit of the proceedings of the convention, and its committee, in July and December, adopted resolutions expressive of their confidence in the peaceable and moderate disposition which the burgesses of Scotland had connected with a just sense of the necessity of that reform, to

U U

obtain

---

\* The Members of this Committee were :—

Sir Thomas Dundas, Bart. M.P.  
 Richard Brinsley Sheridan, Esq. M.P.  
 The Earl of Selkirk  
 Charles Grey, Esq. M.P.  
 William Henry Lambton, Esq. M.P.  
 The Earl of Lauderdale  
 John Courtenay, Esq. M.P.  
 Thomas Reid, Esq.  
 Thomas Bell, Esq. Secretary  
 John Wilson, Esq. Solicitor  
 The Hon. Thomas Erskine, M.P.  
 Sylvester Douglas, Esq.  
 Sir W. Augustus Cunyngham, Bart.  
 John Schaw Stewart, Esq. M.P.  
 Right Hon. Lord Daer  
 Francis H. Mackenzie, Esq. of Seaforth  
 French Lawrence, LL.D.  
 William Elliot of Wells, Esq.

Right Hon. Lord Saltoun  
 Laurence Dundas, Esq. M.P.  
 William Gillies, Esq.  
 Andrew Stirling, Esq. of Drumpellier  
 The Hon. John Douglas  
 Right Hon. Lord Sempill  
 James Mackintosh, Esq.  
 The Hon. Major Maitland, M.P.  
 Col. Norman Macleod of Macleod, M.P.  
 William Maxwell, Esq. of Carriden  
 Samuel Whitbread, jun. Esq. M.P.  
 Earl Wycombe, M.P.  
 John Randal Burch, Esq. M.P.  
 William Smith, Esq. M.P.  
 John Christian Curwen, Esq. M.P.  
 Michael Angelo Taylor, Esq. M.P.  
 Joseph Richardson, Esq.  
 George Reid, Esq.

A.D. 1793. obtain which they had fairly and openly applied, by respectful petitions, to the legislature. On the 4th of January, Mr. Sheridan, in compliance with these resolutions, gave notice in the House of Commons, that, as soon as possible, after the recess, he would present the petitions, which were then expected from Scotland, and bring forward a motion, founded both on these, and on the various accounts and papers, which had been, at different times, submitted to the consideration of the house, respecting the proposed reform. Mr. Sheridan having, on the 11th March, presented all the petitions, notified his intention of bringing forward the subject on Monday, the 25th; and, accordingly, on that day, he made the following motion—“That the several petitions presented to this house, in this session of parliament, from the royal boroughs in Scotland, together with the several accounts and papers, relating to the internal government of the said royal boroughs, which were presented to this house in the last parliament, should be referred to the consideration of a committee, to examine the matter thereof, and to report the same, as it shall appear to them, to the house.” This motion, to the surprise of many, who were inimical to reform, was carried, by a majority. The committee\* was thereupon named, alternately, by each side of the house; and the question put, on the name of each member, in the usual manner.

The design of moving for a select committee was in conformity to the direction of the London committee, in order to arrange and digest the very voluminous papers upon the table of the house, and to report the evidence arising from them. Although that committee

---

\* The Committee consisted of the following Members:—

|                               |                             |                         |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Richard B. Sheridan, Esq.     | W. Henry Lambton, Esq.      | William Smith, Esq.     |
| The Hon. Henry Hobart         | William Wilberforce, Esq.   | John Anstruther, Esq.   |
| Charles Grey, Esq.            | Samuel Whitbread, jun. Esq. | J. C. Curwen, Esq.      |
| The Lord Advocate of Scotland | J. Sargent, Esq.            | Right Hon. Dudley Ryder |
| Colonel Maelood               | Earl Wycombe                | William Adam, Esq.      |
| The Attorney General          | Right Hon. R. B. Jenkinson  | Robert Barclay, Esq.    |
| The Hon. Major Maitland       | Laurence Dundas, Esq.       | M. A. Taylor, Esq.      |
| The Solicitor General         | R. Burdon, Esq.             | Alex. Allardyce, Esq.   |
| The Hon. Thomas Erskine       | J. R. Burch, Esq.           |                         |
| Right Hon. Lord Mornington    | Sir Elijah Impey            |                         |

tee was not invested with power to call for papers, persons, and records, yet this disadvantage, it was supposed, would be more than compensated by avoiding the delay which would necessarily have attended the examination of oral testimony, and by enabling the committee to present their report to the house in such time, that Mr. Sheridan might, during the session of parliament, have an opportunity of bringing forward a bill for correcting the abuses complained of. A.D. 1795

The examination, however, of the very intricate and voluminous papers which were produced, was attended with a much greater degree of labour, and consumed much more time, than had at first been expected. Differences of opinion arose in the committee respecting particular parts of the evidence, and more especially certain facts which appeared from the records of Aberdeen. These were considered to be of so much importance, both by the burgesses, and by several members of the committee of convention, that they were resolved to procure additional extracts from the records of that borough, to be transmitted to London, without delay; but these additional extracts did not arrive in London till towards the middle of May.

Meanwhile, the London committee was occupied in settling the terms of the report, and the import of the newly produced papers, which, upon a fresh motion, were also referred to the committee of the house. On the 17th June, Mr. Sheridan presented the report, which was ordered to be printed, for the consideration of the members, during the recess of parliament. Although this report was necessarily confined to a simple statement of the facts which appeared from the papers produced, without argument or deduction, yet it established the most important parts of the allegations in the petitions of the burgesses:—I. The uniform right of election inherent in them, according to their most ancient laws, and to their charters. II. The destruction of that right by the present system of government, in the royal boroughs, wherein there appears nothing uniform, except the principle of self-election, by which men, once in possession of power, may retain it for ever, in direct contradiction to those ancient laws, and to those charters, and even to the very acts of parliament, by means of which that principle of self-election appears to



A.D. 1793. have been introduced. III. The imposition of taxes, without the authority of parliament. IV. The amount of the annual revenues of the royal boroughs, and the power assumed and exercised by the magistracy, of contracting debts, disposing of the common revenues, and alienating the common property and common lands of royal boroughs, at their pleasure; although these lands and revenues appear to have been granted to the burgesses at large, by the express terms of their charters.

On the 15th July, the London committee having met, and taken under their consideration the report of the select committee of the House of Commons, adopted several resolutions,\* expressive of their sentiments

---

\* LONDON, JULY 15, 1793.

*“ At a Meeting of the London Committee, for conducting the Reform in the Internal Government of the Royal Boroughs in Scotland :*

ANDREW STIRLING, Esq. of Drumpellier, in the Chair :

“ THIS Committee having perused the Minutes of the Committee of the Convention of Delegates from the Burgesses of the royal boroughs, holden at Edinburgh, and the letters received from the Secretary and Members of that Committee, and from the Burgesses; and having likewise carefully read the Report of the Select Committee of the House of Commons, to whom the petitions and papers presented from the royal boroughs were referred,

“ RESOLVED, That a very important advantage has been gained in favour of the reform of the internal government of the royal boroughs, by putting the Report of the Select Committee on the journals of the House of Commons.

“ RESOLVED, That copies of the Report of the Select Committee, printed by order of the House of Commons, for the consideration of the Members, shall be transmitted, as soon as possible, to the Secretary of the Committee of Convention, at Edinburgh.

“ RESOLVED, That, as the Solicitor for the Burgesses expects, in a very few days, to receive a number of copies of that Report, for which he has obtained an order, a Sub-Committee be appointed, to frame a Report of the proceedings in this business during the last sessions, and to submit the same to this Committee, at a full meeting, on Tuesday next, in order that such Report may be transmitted to Edinburgh, along with the printed Report of the Select Committee of the House of Commons.

“ RESOLVED, That, though the Report of the Select Committee, in conformity with the order of reference made by the House of Commons, is necessarily confined to a simple statement of the facts, which appear from the papers produced, without argument or deduction, yet that the Report establishes the most important of the allegations in the petitions, viz. :---1st. The uniform right of election inherent in the Burgesses, according to their most ancient laws, and to their charters. 2dly. The destruction of that right by the present system of government in the royal boroughs, wherein there appears nothing uniform, except the principle of self-election, by which men, once in

sentiments upon the proceedings which had taken place in this important question; and, in conformity to their resolutions of the 24th December, they firmly determined, by all legal and constitutional means, to discharge the important trust committed to them by the burgesses

---

possession of power, may retain it for ever, in direct contradiction to those ancient laws, and to those charters, and even to the very acts of parliament by means of which that principle of self-election appears to have been introduced. 3dly. The imposition of taxes, without the authority of parliament. 4thly. The amount of the annual revenues of the royal boroughs, and the power assumed and exercised by the magistracy, of contracting debts, disposing of the common revenues, and alienating the common property and common lands of the royal boroughs, at their pleasure, although the lands and revenues appear to have been granted to the Burgesses at large, by the express terms of their charters.

“RESOLVED, That other grievances are stated by the Burgesses, such as the particular instances of the misapplication and mismanagement of the common property and revenues; the jobbing of the public works; the amount of the debts contracted by the Magistrates, without the concurrence of the Burgesses, and for which the Burgesses, in one shape or another, are ultimately liable; the want of a jurisdiction of accounts; the neglect of police; partiality in quartering soldiers, and apportioning the cess; the refusing the Burgesses access to the accounts and records of the boroughs; and, above all, the establishment of juntas in the councils, and the numerous instances of certain individuals or families having continued in the magistracy for a long tract of time. These grievances did not, in general, fall within the returns on the table of the House of Commons, and, consequently, could not form any part of the Report of the Select Committee. But they remain, as before, the subject of oral and other evidence; and the Burgesses are, in no respect, precluded from bringing such evidence.

“RESOLVED, That the want of a jurisdiction of accounts is admitted in the bill brought into the House of Commons by the Lord Advocate for Scotland, in May, 1792; and, independent of that admission, is established by the final judgments of the supreme courts of justice. That the establishment of juntas in the councils, and the perpetuating the power of the magistracy in particular families, or individuals, by means of the present system of self-election, may easily be proved by the members of the town councils themselves, and their delegates to parliament, and by the town-clerks, and other persons, engaged in what is called the management of the royal boroughs. The same is the case as to the amount of the debts contracted by the magistracy. Facts of such complete notoriety in Scotland cannot fail to be established by the evidence of any person whatever, who is intimately acquainted with the affairs of the royal boroughs.

“RESOLVED, That this Committee, in conformity with the resolutions of the 24th December last, are firmly determined, by all legal and constitutional means, to discharge the important trust committed to them by the Burgesses of Scotland.

“RESOLVED, That a copy of these resolutions be transmitted to the Committee of Convention, at Edinburgh.

“RESOLVED, That this Committee do meet on Tuesday next, Richard Brinsley Sheridan, Esq. M.P. in the Chair.”

A.D. 1793. gesses of Scotland. The London committee afterwards presented to the committee of convention, at Edinburgh, their report\* on the whole business, in a very full and distinct manner, which was afterwards published.

In

---

\* In this Report, they, among other matters, stated, "that they thought it unnecessary to enter into any further consideration of that Report, than they have done in their minute of the 15th July. In that minute, the particular allegations of the petitions, which appear to this Committee to be established by the Report, are distinctly stated, and the Burgesses, by examining the printed copies of the Report, will have an opportunity of judging how far the opinion of this Committee is well founded. The Committee have likewise stated the different allegations of the Burgesses, which the papers produced and referred to the Committee were insufficient to establish. They have pointed out what appears to be the most easy mode of proving those allegations, and of establishing particular facts stated by the Burgesses of individual boroughs. The Committee is persuaded, that the abstract of the setts annexed to the Report of the Select Committee of the House of Commons is fairly made from the papers produced to the House; but several Members of this Committee have opportunities of knowing, that the setts so produced are not all of them the setts according to which the elections are, at present, conducted; and, therefore, earnestly recommend this observation to the attention of the Burgesses, in examining the setts of the particular boroughs. Several instances of this fact might be mentioned; but this Committee will confine themselves to one, in the borough of Wick. In the sett produced, it is said, that the magistrates were to be chosen by the advice of the Earl of Caithness; "but now, the Earl of Caithness not concerning himself with the provostrie, the town has been in the use to choose their provost and bailies by the plurality of the poll, and the provost and bailies to nominate seven counsellors," &c. This Committee, however, know, both from the information of the Burgesses of Wick, and otherwise, that the successor of the Earl actually exercises, and has even extended the power formerly granted to the family of Caithness.

"In addressing the Burgesses of the royal boroughs, at the end of the fifth year since the establishment of the London Committee, the Members of that Committee cannot but congratulate themselves, and the people of Scotland in general, on the success which has attended the temperate but persevering efforts of the Burgesses, displayed in the measures they have adopted for obtaining a reform or regulation of the internal government of the royal boroughs, by destroying the present pernicious system of self-election, and restoring the rights and privileges conferred upon the Burgesses by their most ancient laws, and by their charters—a reform which must be productive of the highest public advantage to the national spirit, industry, and prosperity of Scotland. By the appointment of the Select Committee, in the last session of parliament, the Burgesses have gained a point that had been contested, with the utmost pertinacity, by the enemies of reform, for years before; and by putting the Report of that Committee on the journals of the House of Commons, it appears to this Committee, that they have established the existence of the most important of the grievances of which they complain, while they are in no respect precluded from bringing forward such additional evidence as they may think proper. Whether Mr. Sheridan shall move for leave to bring in a bill for the remedy of those abuses, which are established by the Report of the Select Committee, or shall proceed to prove the other grievances stated by the Burgesses, at the beginning of the next session of parliament, will form a subject for the consideration of the Delegates, at the



In the meanwhile, certain political associations, under the deno- A.D. 1794.  
mination of the *Corresponding Society*, and the *Scottish Convention*,  
had been instituted, for the avowed object of accomplishing a re-  
form in parliamentary representation; but to those societies far  
deeper and more dangerous designs were ascribed. Although the  
independent burgesses of Scotland were totally unconnected with  
these, yet the principles and the doctrines which they propagated  
among the people, joined with a series of events that had recently  
happened in a neighbouring kingdom, compelled the burgesses,  
and their respectable committees, to relinquish what had been so  
long the object of their pursuits. Those who were most zealous in  
supporting and promoting the cause of reform in the administration  
of the boroughs, now judged it prudent and advisable to discontinue  
their exertions, until the disorders which perplexed the nation should  
be quieted, and peace and tranquillity re-established.

From these domestic occurrences, the attention of the people was  
diverted, about this time, to the more serious and important affairs of  
the nation. The disorders in France consequent upon the revolution  
in the government of that kingdom, had involved Britain in a  
war with the French nation, which continued, with a short cessation  
of hostilities, for the unparalleled period of upwards of twenty-two  
years. It spread its fury in almost every quarter of the globe, and  
was attended, not only with a profusion of bloodshed to every nation  
in Europe, but with an enormous expenditure, and an increasing load  
of debt to Britain. The period, however, at length, arrived, when the  
gigantic projects of the rulers of France were completely blasted,  
and the war terminated by the splendid and decisive victory obtained,  
upon the 18th of June, 1815, over the French, by the British arms,  
under the illustrious general the Duke of Wellington, in the battle  
of Waterloo, which will ever be memorable in the annals of British  
history.

In

---

ensuing Convention; and the Convention may be assured, that so long as they are supported by the  
general voice of the Burgesses at large, this Committee are resolved, with inflexible perseverance,  
and to the utmost of their abilities, to discharge the trust committed to their care."

A.D. 1794. In the beginning of this war, an invasion of Britain was often threatened by the enemy ; but the whole country was soon in arms, fully prepared to encounter any hostile attack that might have been attempted. The citizens of Aberdeen embraced the earliest opportunity, in compliance with the recommendation of government, to form an association to serve as a corps of volunteers, for internal defence, to the number of 400, without any consideration for their services, or for clothing.\* They were embodied, under the requisite number of officers, the provost of Aberdeen being colonel commanding, and Thomas Bannerman, Esq. lieutenant-colonel. They continued to serve, with the greatest zeal, for several years, and were the means of preserving tranquillity in the town. Government, afterwards, thought it proper to adopt a more efficient plan of calling into action the services of every individual in the kingdom, capable of bearing arms, as well for the internal defence of the country, as to be in readiness for repelling an invasion of the enemy, if that should be attempted. Several volunteer corps† were accordingly raised in Aberdeen, composed of the inhabitants, of different ranks, who served for a small allowance of pay during the war. Two of these last mentioned corps were, soon after being embodied, formed into a local militia.

1799. While the burden of an expensive war was pressing severely upon the country, there was an alarming deficiency in the crop this year, arising from a bad harvest, which was unusually late. Although every expedient was adopted by the magistrates to provide the inhabitants with a proper supply of meal, and to encourage the importation of that article into the town, by giving liberal bounties, yet  
scarcity

---

\* Their dress was a blue coat, white facings, white vest and breeches, with black gaiters, round hat and feather.

† One corps, about 800 strong, called the *Aberdeen Light Infantry Volunteers*, was raised and commanded by Alex. Dauney, LL.D. Professor of Civil Law, King's College, but disbanded in the year 1801 ; another, of the same number, was raised by Lieutenant-Colonel William Finlason ; and a third by Alex. Tower of Logie, about 700 strong.

scarcity prevailed till the subsequent harvest. The prices of every necessary of life were, by consequence, high;\* and had it not been for considerable importations of corn from the continent, famine would have been inevitable. But, although the inhabitants endured many privations, and frequently murmured during the time of scarcity, yet they felt no serious want, and the subsequent crop was abundant. A.D. 1799.

The beginning of the subsequent year was remarkable for heavy losses sustained by owners of shipping belonging to the port. Many vessels were destroyed upon the coast, by a tempestuous storm, which commenced upon the second day of January, and continued for some time. No fewer than 100 seamen, belonging to the port, perished by shipwreck, in the course of that month; an event long remembered by the citizens. 1800.

In the celebration of the anniversary of the king's birth-day, in the usual manner, this year, a very distressing occurrence happened in the evening, which unhappily led to the loss of several lives. The officers of a highland regiment, called the *Ross and Cromarty Rangers*, who were quartered in the barracks, and had lately returned from quelling the insurrection in Ireland, had been invited, by the magistrates, to the town-hall, to drink his Majesty's health. The commander and several other officers attended, in consequence of the invitation, but, unfortunately, they indulged too freely in wine, and were soon intoxicated. On their return from the town-house to the barracks, they were observed in this state by some idle and disorderly boys, who, as usual, were assembled on the Castlegate, amusing themselves with throwing squibs, dirt, and garbage at each other, but, in other respects, not inclined to mischief, nor much disposed to riot. These boys thought proper to throw some of the garbage at the officers, and in that manner to treat them as they had done some of the citizens, in the course of the afternoon. The officers, irritated at this indignity, in place of applying to any respectable citizen

X X

---

\* The ordinary price of a boll of oat-meal was L.2 5s.; a boll of bear, L.2 4s.; and a boll of potatoes, L.2 2s. 8d.



A.D. 1802. zen for assistance, or making any attempt to conciliate the good will of the boys, immediately called out the regiment from the barracks, without the authority or the presence of a civil magistrate, with a view to resent the fancied insults which had been offered to them. The consequence of this was, that, in a very short time, a tumult and disorder ensued, and the populace and the military became exasperated at each other. The soldiers, set free from discipline, and unrestrained by their officers, repeatedly fired, with ball cartridge, upon the people assembled in the Castlegate, four of whom were unfortunately killed, and many severely wounded. The magistrates having, after this accident, exerted their authority, and commanded the military to retire, the soldiers were prevented from committing further mischief, and returned to their barracks.

As this atrocious act could not be justified by any provocation that may have been given by an unarmed populace, it naturally raised a considerable degree of ferment in the public mind. The people being now inflamed, by the unprovoked outrage of the military, denounced their vengeance on the regiment; and, to avert further disorder, it was judged prudent to march it from the town, without delay.

Meanwhile, some of the officers and soldiers, who were most deeply implicated in this unfortunate affair, were apprehended, and detained in confinement, in consequence of a warrant which had been issued by the magistrates, on a charge of wilful murder. An investigation having been made, in the usual manner, by examining the persons accused, as well as a number of witnesses, who were on the street at the time the melancholy catastrophe had happened, the proceedings were reported, by the magistrates, to the crown agent at Edinburgh, for the purpose of being submitted to the consideration of the Lord Advocate of Scotland. But his Lordship, for reasons best known to himself, thought proper to direct the prisoners to be transmitted to Edinburgh, and, about two months afterwards, to signify, by a letter, addressed to the sheriff of the county, that, after considering the precognition, he had determined not to prosecute any of the persons in custody, and had consented to their being liberated,

berated, on bail. They were accordingly restored to liberty, on A.D. 1802. finding security to stand trial, when called upon, at any time within six months.

These circumstances could not fail to agitate the public mind, and to excite the discontent of the people, who, not without reason, thought, that, as the lives of so many citizens had been lost, by the culpable conduct of the military, a public trial was indispensibly necessary for the sake of public justice, whatever might be its result. In this situation of matters, it was resolved, by many of the principal citizens, to bring the guilty persons before a court of justice, and to carry on the prosecution, in the names of the parents of those who had been killed; and to defray the necessary charges, attending the prosecution, by voluntary subscription. Accordingly, after the ordinary preparatory steps had been taken, the trial of three of the officers and two serjeants, who appeared to have been most culpable, commenced, in the high court of justiciary, at Edinburgh, on the 6th January, and continued for several days; the result was, 1803. that the jury found two of the officers *not guilty*, and the libel, so far as it concerned the two serjeants, *not proven*. Ensign John Lanigan, the other officer, having judged it prudent to abscond on the day of the trial, was out-lawed for non-appearance.

This unexpected result was greatly displeasing to the citizens, nor could it fail to mortify them exceedingly. What added still more to their vexation, they found themselves involved in an enormous expense to lawyers, agents, and their retainers, at Edinburgh, to which the voluntary subscriptions were, by no means, adequate. This expense exceeded L.900 sterling, exclusive of the personal charges of many of the witnesses, who, on account of the peculiar circumstances of the case, declined to make any demand, although they were put to much inconvenience by the long journey, and several of them suffered by the inclemency of the season.

Notwithstanding the protracted war, the shipping of Aberdeen, 1809. both in number and in tonnage, had greatly increased, and its commerce and manufactures had become more extensive. These cir-

A.D. 1809. cumstances induced the magistrates and town council, about this time, to direct their attention to the improvement of the harbour, which was now found to be very incommodious. The obstructions of the bar were evidently detrimental to vessels resorting to the port. That it was unfit to receive vessels drawing any great depth of water was apparent; and, being a tide harbour, vessels sheathed with copper could not lie in it with safety. To obviate these inconveniences, the magistrates had, some years previously, resolved to make considerable alterations upon it, and, with that view, thought it prudent, as a preparatory step, to apply to Mr. John Rennie, civil engineer, for his opinion upon the subject; at the same time, requesting him to furnish them with a proper plan for ameliorating, in the best manner, the condition of the harbour. He accordingly made a minute survey of it, and proposed the construction of wet docks, at a distance from the tideway, and certain other improvements, which he delineated upon a plan, afterwards given in to the magistrates. But, owing to various circumstances, this plan was relinquished, and the proposed improvements were abandoned, for a time. About this period, however, the magistrates thought it proper to consult Mr. Thomas Telford, civil engineer, upon the propriety of constructing wet docks, and other matters regarding the harbour, and his opinion was to regulate their future operations. Mr. Telford, with the advice of Mr. Jessop, who was eminent for his knowledge in such matters, recommended the extension of the north pier, the construction of a tide lock near the village of Futtie, the formation of the whole area of the harbour, from the lock to the fish-market, into a bason, with graving docks at its extremity; which works, it was supposed, could be accomplished without much difficulty, although they would necessarily be attended with considerable expense. This plan met with the approbation of the magistrates, who, in the beginning of

1810. this year, prepared a bill to be presented to parliament, for obtaining an act authorising them to execute the works, and for enabling them to raise the ways and means to defray the expense of the undertaking. This project, however, excited considerable opposition from many respectable citizens and ship-owners, who strongly remonstrated against it, as being pregnant with ruin and destruction to the harbour.



harbour. On the other hand, a great number of the citizens concurred with the magistrates in supporting a measure which, they thought, would be attended with beneficial consequences to the town. The bill, when brought into parliament, was warmly opposed by those who disapproved of Mr. Telford's plan; the press teemed, for some time, with publications, both for and against it; and the community continued to be nearly divided upon the subject. The bill, however, was passed, after a variety of opinions had been given upon it by scientific men, whose evidence, on both sides of this important question, was brought forward, before the committee of the House of Commons. A.D. 1810.

When the act had been obtained, many of those who had given it their concurrence voluntarily came forward, and subscribed money, by way of loan, to enable the magistrates to carry the intended improvements into execution, which circumstance some of them have since had cause to regret. The sums which were subscribed amounted to L.50,000 sterling; great part of which was afterwards advanced. But this sum was far short of the expenditure upon the works of the harbour; and we lament to have occasion to state, that, however well these improvements may have been intended, subsequent events have, by no means, justified the design. The extension of the north pier, and the erection of the quays in the interior of the harbour, have, no doubt, been accomplished; some obstructions upon the bar, and in the tideway, have been removed; a stone jetty, or breakwater, has been formed towards the sea; and a good deal of property has been purchased in the village of Futtie; but neither the tide lock, bason, nor graving docks, which were considered to be the grand and primary objects of the plan, and most essential to the improvement of the harbour, have been executed, nor has any thing been done in these branches of the work, although a period of seven years has elapsed. In the meantime, a debt of upwards of L.120,000 sterling has been incurred, which will not be liquidated for many years, even although the present duties which are leviable upon imports and exports should continue to be productive.

On the first of April, this year, a melancholy calamity happened at this place, which was attended with peculiar circumstances of distress. 1813.

A.D. 1813. tress. After a continuance of mild weather, an unexpected and violent tempest came on from the south-east, accompanied with a heavy fall of snow, but soon afterwards shifted to the north-east. At this critical moment, five of the whale fishing ships belonging to the port, namely the *Hercules*, *Latona*, *Middlcton*, *St. Andrew*, and *Oscar*, Captain Innes, which had all sailed early in the morning, with a fair wind, and the sea perfectly calm, were riding at anchor in the bay, dreading no misfortune. The weather becoming unsettled, and having the appearance of an impending storm, the *St. Andrew* and *Oscar*, to avoid approaching danger, about five o'clock in the morning weighed anchor, and put to sea. A boat from the latter having gone ashore, for some of the crew, who were absent, that vessel put about, stood into the bay, and succeeded in getting the last of her hands on board. By this time she was far inshore, and a fatal calm, with a heavy rolling sea, and strong flood tide coming on, rendered it impracticable for her to clear the Girdle-ness, which lies a little to the south of the entry to the harbour. The ship continuing to fall to the leeward, was again necessitated to bring up in the face of the rocky shore within the ness. Soon afterwards, by the violence of the gale which sprung up from north-east, with thick snow, her situation was become perilous in the extreme, and filled the minds of the people who were spectators on shore with the greatest consternation. About half past eleven o'clock, A.M. the ship, after dragging her anchor, was seen to drive ashore in the Greyhope, near the Short-ness. Many people now crowded to the shore, in order to render what assistance might be in their power to the unfortunate sufferers; but the heart-rending scene which now presented itself made it too apparent that all human efforts for preservation of the ship, or any of the crew, must be unavailing. She lay on a large reef of rocks, and, from the tremendous sea, which overwhelmed the vessel, she now appeared to be breaking up. At this instant, an attempt was made by the crew to form a sort of bridge to the nearest rocks, by cutting away the main-mast, but it unfortunately fell alongside the ship, instead of towards the shore, as they had fondly expected. Many of the men who had clung to the rigging were now, by the falling of the fore and mizen masts, plunged into the deep, and disappeared, to rise no more; and most of the remainder of the crew,  
having



having nothing to lay hold of, were swept from the vessel, and suffered a similar fate. Others, who attempted to regain the land by swimming, were carried off by the heavy surf, or borne down by the floating wreck, with which they were surrounded. The fore-castle of the ship still remaining above water, five men were observed upon it, one of whom was Captain Innes, who was distinctly seen, making signals for that assistance which it was impossible to afford him; and, after clinging for sometime to the wreck, and struggling hard for life, they all shared the fate of their unfortunate companions, the whole having gone to pieces. About the same time, the first mate and one of the seamen were, with difficulty, saved; being, out of a crew of forty-four, the only survivors of this sad catastrophe. A.D. 1813.

The vessel having been thus destroyed, little of her wreck was saved; and the loss sustained by the owners was estimated at L.10,000 sterling. She had been recently repaired, and was completely equipped for the voyage. The bodies of Captain Innes, and thirty-seven of the crew, were, some days afterwards, cast on shore, and decently interred by their weeping relatives.

The citizens of all ranks, not satisfied with unavailing expressions of sympathy, immediately opened a subscription, for pecuniary aid to alleviate the distresses of the wives and families of the sufferers in this calamity. The sum of L.1200, and upwards, was speedily raised in this manner, and distributed among them, according to their respective situations.

In this storm, the *St. Andrew*, which rode about a cable's length to the windward of the *Oscar*, cut from both her anchors, in the face of the rocks which had proved so fatal, and fortunately got under weigh, weathered the tremendous storm, and gained the port, after she had been every moment expected to be driven on shore. The *Hercules*, in attempting to take the harbour, knocked off her rudder, to the northward of the pier, and was forced on shore upon the sandy beach. Fortunately none of the crew were lost, and the vessel, when the storm abated, was got off, without suffering any material damage, and proceeded on her intended voyage.



A.D. 1815.

In the month of January, of the present year, several other melancholy shipwrecks happened at this place, which were accompanied with circumstances of unparalleled distress. On Thursday, the 26th, after a continuance, for some time, of intense frost, a thaw commenced, with a gale from east-south-east, which, in the course of the night, and on Friday morning, increased to a tempest, and occasioned a tremendous sea. On Friday forenoon, the brig *Caledonia*, and schooner *Providence*, both belonging to Aberdeen, appeared, standing to the southward, but, from the strong flood tide, were carried near the Girdleness, when it became evident that their situation was critical and perilous, in the extreme. The brig wore about, stood for the harbour, and, for some time, a hope was entertained of her being able to gain the port in safety; but this was unhappily frustrated by the awful catastrophe which soon followed, for, in a few minutes, the vessel, in holding to the northward, was struck, on the broadside, by a tremendous wave, which, breaking over her as high as the tops, threw her on her broadside, with the topsails in the water. After continuing in this deplorable situation for some time, the vessel again righted, when it was discovered that the sails were lacerated, and flying loose, owing to the sheets having given way. She was now no longer manageable, and a succeeding wave completely overwhelmed her, and all on board perished, to the number of six or seven, who composed her crew.

The schooner, having got to the southward of the ness, was, by a signal from the shore, directed to the bay of Nigg, as affording the only remaining chance of saving the crew; but, in making for this place, the seamen betook themselves to the rigging, from which three of them were successively washed, and immediately perished. The vessel having struck, Captain Findlay, the master, with the utmost difficulty, reached the shore, by clinging to the main boom, and was conveyed, in a very exhausted state, to the manse of Nigg, where he experienced, from Dr. Cruden, the benevolent clergyman of the parish, every attention and comfort which his unfortunate condition required.

Amidst these afflicting scenes, which filled the minds of the numerous spectators on shore with the most painful emotions, the

*Thames*

*Thames* smack, of Aberdeen, from London, with a valuable cargo of goods on board, appeared, under circumstances of distress similar to the former, and was making for the harbour, with a favourable prospect of gaining it, until one of those tremendous seas with which she was surrounded laid her on her beam ends, and her mast nearly in the water. After remaining in this perilous situation for some time, she righted, but her sails and sheets being lacerated, she was now rendered unnavigable, left at the mercy of the waves, and her fate became inevitable. She struck among the rocks in the Greyhope, near the fatal spot where the *Oscar* had been destroyed. The crew, consisting of nine persons, with two passengers on board, perished; and the ship became a wreck.

The gale continued, with unabated fury, during the whole of Friday, and the subsequent Saturday and Sunday. In the morning of the last of these days, the *Thetis* smack, from London, and a Danish galliot, from North Bergen, bound for Bilboa, with fish, oil, &c. were seen in the offing. The *Thetis*, by uncommon dexterity in navigating her, fortunately made the harbour in safety, through tremendous breakers; but the galliot, although she followed the same course as directly as her exhausted crew could guide her, was unfortunately struck on the beam by a heavy sea, whereby she was dashed among the ruins of the north pier head, which had been partly thrown down by the recent gales. One of the crew, in attempting to gain the pier, was crushed to death by the vessel, which having soon after parted, was driven into the harbour in a shattered condition.

Since the memorable storm, in the beginning of January, 1800, with the exception of the melancholy catastrophe of the *Oscar*, no calamity, so extensive and fatal to Aberdeen, either with respect to the number of lives that were lost, or to the value of property destroyed, had occurred at that place.

The humanity and benevolence of the public in general, and the inhabitants of the town and vicinity in particular, never were, at any period, exerted so much as upon the present occasion, to alleviate the distresses of the widows and families of those who had unhappily suffered.

A.D. 1815. suffered. Upwards of L.2000 were raised by voluntary subscription, and placed in the hands of a committee of the citizens, as a fund for a permanent relief to those who were connected with the sufferers in these shipwrecks, as well as to others who might afterwards be in a similar situation of distress.

1816. On Tuesday the 13th of August, of the present year, a shock of an earthquake was distinctly felt in the various quarters of this town, and in the neighbourhood. This awful visitation took place at four minutes before eleven o'clock in the evening, and continued nearly six seconds. The undulation seemed to come from S.S.E. and was simultaneously felt, to the distance of some miles, in the direction of N.N.W. The houses, in many parts of the town, were shaken to their foundations, the heaviest articles of furniture in them were moved; and a rumbling noise was heard, as if some heavy body was rolling along their roofs. In many of them, the bells were set a ringing, and the agitation of the wires continued visible for some time after the cessation of the shock. In about three quarters of an hour afterwards, another, but slighter shock, was distinctly felt. The air, during the remainder of the night, was mild and serene, with clear moonlight; and the only extraordinary appearance, after the shocks, was that of a thin whitish vapour, settling on the surrounding hills. Fortunately, although it created a considerable degree of alarm among the inhabitants, no damage was occasioned to any of the buildings in the town. This is the only instance of any shock of an earthquake having been felt in this quarter since the 8th of September, 1608, when an incident of the same nature occurred, and seemed to have been attended with similar effects.

---

1817. We have now traced the main object of our inquiries from a remote period, through a series of successive ages, and through many vicissitudes of fortune, which spares neither man, nor any of his undertakings. During the course of several centuries, Aberdeen has been found to have supported a distinguished part in the great scale of political society, and to have experienced its full share of those calamities and distresses, to which the country, in the times of anarchy  
and



and disorder, was frequently exposed; while its citizens have been characterized by their independence, and distinguished for their zeal to promote the welfare of the town and community. It is, therefore, with deep concern, that we are compelled, at this stage of our narrative, to announce an embarrassment of the affairs of the treasury of Aberdeen. In order to account for this unprecedented circumstance, and to form a just conception of the various causes that have led to it, it behoves us to take a retrospective view of the public affairs of the town for some years previous to this unfortunate occurrence. A.D. 1817.

While the nation was engaged in the late tedious war, Aberdeen enjoyed peace and tranquillity at home. Its shipping, commerce, and manufactures, had gradually increased, far beyond expectation; and from these sources, as well as from the produce of the county, an influx of wealth soon became manifest, and elated the minds of the people. These circumstances naturally excited a spirit of exertion, not only in agricultural pursuits, but in every branch of business, and local improvements began to be an object of general attention. The approaches to the central parts of the town, both from the south and north, had long been a subject of complaint, as being narrow, indirect, and incommodious; and the buildings were crowded, and confined. To obviate these inconveniences, it was suggested by Mr. Charles Abercrombie, a surveyor of eminence, who had planned the turnpike roads of the county, to open a street from the west end of the Castle-gate, through Saint Katharine's hill, over the Denburn, and, by means of a bridge, to form a communication with the extensive plain on the west of the town. This scheme, which was highly approved of by many citizens interested in the prosperity of Aberdeen, was first publicly introduced to a general meeting of the trustees of the turnpike roads of the county, held upon the 30th of April, 1796, and recommended by them to the consideration of the magistrates. When Mr. Abercrombie's plan, and minutes of the county meeting, were laid before the town council, upon the 29th of July, of the same year, they appear to have been averse to embark in so serious an undertaking; for, although the scheme might possess advantages very desirable to be obtained, they thought that the great expense which would necessarily attend its execution, particularly the purchase of

A.D. 1817. private property, was an insurmountable obstacle to it. At the same time, however, they expressed themselves ready to accede to any plan which could be devised for obtaining, on reasonable terms, a commodious approach to the town. They accordingly passed an act, by which they recommended to the magistrates to meet and hold a conference with the gentlemen of the county upon the subject. Various meetings were accordingly held, but some considerable time elapsed before any thing material was done.

Meanwhile the projected improvement had engrossed the general attention of the citizens, and would seem to have been often under the consideration of the magistrates, who, in the view of such an undertaking being sooner or later accomplished, had authorised the purchase of some property in the line of the proposed street to the south. In the beginning of the year 1799, matters appear to have been so far brought to maturity, that the council had acquiesced in Mr. Abercrombie's plan being adopted and carried into execution, provided it should meet the approbation and concurrence of the citizens at large. The magistrates accordingly embraced the earliest opportunity of adopting proper measures to obtain this, in a constitutional manner.

On the 26th of February, of the same year, a general meeting of the inhabitants, qualified to vote in the election of commissioners under the act for paving and lighting the public streets, &c. having assembled, for the purpose of determining upon the expediency of augmenting the rate of assessment, the late Thomas Leys, Esq. of Glasgoforest, attended, as chief magistrate of Aberdeen, and introduced to the meeting an overture regarding the proposed improvement, which had by this time become familiar to the public mind. The citizens assembled on this occasion not only approved the plan, but immediately nominated a numerous committee, for taking under their consideration "what roads and streets it might be requisite to alter or enlarge, and what new ones it might be proper to open." At the same time, it was recommended to them to procure plans and estimates of the expense, and to report the proceedings to a subsequent meeting. This they accordingly did upon the first of July,

July, on which day a numerous body of the citizens attended. The committee, in their report, expressed their opinion “that two new streets, one from the south, and another from the north, should be opened, according to Mr. Abercrombie’s plan; and that these streets would not only be most commodious for the public, but would be more adapted for extending, opening up, and beautifying the town, than any other line of road that had yet been suggested; while there was every reason to expect that this improvement might be obtained without ultimately burdening the citizens with the expense.” This report being approved, the meeting resolved that the same should be printed, and dispersed among the inhabitants; and it was recommended to the committee, whose powers were continued, to proceed to carry into execution what had been thus cordially agreed to. A.D. 1817.

As matters were now in the hands of the community, it was only incumbent on the chief magistrate to report the proceedings to his colleagues in the magistracy. This he accordingly did upon the 21st of the subsequent month of August; and the whole was sanctioned by an act of council.

On the 17th of September, the committee, formerly noticed, presented to another meeting of the citizens, assembled for the purpose, their second report, which stated, “that, in a work of this kind, where no tax whatever was proposed to be raised, a temporary advance of a large sum of money would be necessary; and, being satisfied that the undertaking would ultimately answer its own purposes, and reimburse the advances, they were of opinion, that the most proper mode of raising the money would be for the council to interpose the credit of the community; and that it should be recommended to that body to do so, under the authority of an act of parliament;” a draught of a bill for that purpose, having been presented along with the report. The meeting approved not only of the report, but of the recommendation suggested, and of the draught of the bill; and requested the lord provost, who was preses of the meeting, to take the earliest opportunity of submitting the proceedings to the consideration of the council, “with the unanimous and earnest request



A.D. 1817. quest of the meeting that they would take the proper measures for carrying the same forthwith into effect."

In compliance with that request, the whole proceedings were reported to the council upon the 18th of September, and met their approbation, in the same manner as the former resolutions had done. As the annual change of magistrates, however, was to take place in a few days, an act of council was passed, only recommending to their successors to take the matter under their consideration as early as possible.

Such was the situation of this momentous affair, when John Dingwall, Esq. of Ardo succeeded to the office of provost, at Michaelmas, 1799. At the first meeting of the new council, subsequent to the election, an act was passed upon the 28th of September, by which they expressed their concurrence, with their predecessors in office, as to the expediency of the plan which had been adopted by the citizens. They also resolved to afford every assistance in their power to promote its execution, and particularly to interpose the credit of the community, for raising money for the purpose of defraying the expense of the undertaking. At the same time, they appointed a committee, invested with power to take such measures as they might deem expedient for accomplishing the object in view; and directed the proposed bill for an act of parliament, along with the minutes of the general meeting, to be printed, and dispersed among the citizens.

The committee so appointed made such progress in the business, that, in the subsequent session of parliament, an act was obtained, authorising the town council, and certain other persons therein named, as trustees, to purchase properties in the lines of the intended streets, and to open them, according to the plan which had been adopted. As all these proceedings are fully detailed both in the resolutions of the general meetings of the citizens, and in the minutes of the council, we shall refer to extracts of these in the Appendix, in which will also be found a copy of the act of parliament.

When this act had been obtained, Mr. Dingwall, and his colleagues in the council, who were the acting trustees, entered upon its  
execution

execution with great zeal; and their exertions, having every prospect of success, met the applause of their fellow citizens. But, as commonly occurs in matters of this kind, the proprietors of houses and grounds in the lines of the intended streets availed themselves of the opportunity of enhancing the value of their properties far beyond the original estimate. The consequence was, that the trustees were compelled to pay very high prices for almost every one of these properties. The treasurer, under the authority of acts of council, which had been passed subsequent to the act, made the necessary advances for those purposes; and his credit being, at that time, undoubted, he found no difficulty in procuring money on loan, and speedily incurred a very heavy load of debt. But, to complete this great improvement, according to the original design, much more was necessary to be done than merely to purchase the properties through which the new streets were to pass. Union-street could not well be brought to a proper level without constructing a bridge over the Denburn, so as to form a proper connexion with the fields on the west, the main object of the design; and, to render both streets neat and commodious, common sewers, paving, and other extensive works, were indispensably necessary. The expense of these operations, in Union-street alone, was upwards of L.20,000 sterling. A.D. 1817.

This, however, was not the only public undertaking in which the corporation was, at that time, engaged. The turnpike road from Stonehaven to Aberdeen had been undertaken by the council, who were the trustees upon it under the statute, and deeply interested in its execution, on account of the extensive property in its line belonging to several of the public institutions. The expense of this road was about L.12,000. The building of Bridewell also engaged the attention of the magistrates, and towards the expense of this work the treasurer advanced upwards of L.1000. The improvements of the harbour, which commenced in the year 1810, required considerable advances; and, to accelerate these improvements, it was deemed expedient to interpose the security of the treasury for raising funds for defraying the expense of the works. The advances made on that account by the treasurer to the shoremaster have accumulated to upwards of L.43,000. All these sums, added to the charge of the new

A.D. 1817. new streets, with the accumulation of interest, involved the treasury in an immense load of debt, before the successive councils were aware of its alarming amount. The treasurer, although he had subjected himself to that debt, had acquired property to a considerable extent, for account of the corporation, and had obtained security for his advances to other public works; while the administrators of the town entertained sanguine hopes that the building areas in the lines of the new streets would, sooner or later, produce high prices or ground rents, equivalent to the interest of the debt contracted upon them. But, unfortunately, their expectations were not realized; nor did they take into view the small number of citizens that were in a situation to make such purchases, or the remoteness of the period when all the building areas would be required by the population of the town. In the meanwhile, they were necessitated to sell, from time to time, part of the property belonging to some of the public institutions under their administration, for the purpose of discharging the repeated demands upon the treasury, for interest of money, and otherwise, and for supporting its credit.

In the beginning of February, this year, these demands pressing hard upon the treasurer, and the public sources being exhausted, the administrators of the town judged it necessary to declare the insolvency of the treasury.

Such are the principal causes and circumstances, which, by their combined operation, have contributed to involve the affairs of the corporation in their present unfortunate embarrassment.

In this alarming juncture, and with a view to quiet the minds of a numerous body of creditors, as well as the community, the magistrates thought it advisable to nominate a select committee of nine citizens, to investigate the affairs of the treasury, and to form a report thereupon, for the satisfaction of the public. A report\* was

---

\* The Committee were, Hary Lumsden, William Kennedy, Alexander Crombie, David Hutcheon, Alexander Webster, Duncan Davidson, Andrew Jopp, Thomas Burnett, and James Blaikie, advocates in Aberdeen. By their report, it appears—



was accordingly made up, printed, and dispersed, from which it appeared, that the whole public debt amounted to L.225,710 14s. 4d. A.D. 1817.

Z Z

sterling,

---

I. That the prices paid for houses and ground, after deducting old materials, amounted to

|                                                                                      |          |   |    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|---|----|
|                                                                                      | L.73,163 | 4 | 5  |
| The expense of making the streets, bridges, sewers, retaining walls, &c.             | 31,422   | 1 | 11 |
| The expense of the act, plans, &c. and management, since the commencement of the act | -        | - | -  |
|                                                                                      | 6,404    | 0 | 5  |
| The amount of accumulated interest, after deduction of feu-duties and rents          | 57,290   | 8 | 10 |

---

Sum total - L.171,279 15 7

II. That for the property thus acquired, and the expense of making the streets and paying interests, the treasurer had pledged his security. That the treasury debts, including those contracted on account of the new streets, with the loans to the master of shore works, and the expense of making the Stonehaven road, and other improvements, amounted to

---

L.225,710 14 4

Which may be thus classed :

|                                                                                                                                                                   |   |   |   |   |          |    |   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|----------|----|---|
| 1. Debts due to the town's office-bearers, viz. dean of guild, master of mortifications, master of kirk and bridge works, and master of guild brethren's hospital | - | - | - | - | L.64,191 | 3  | 8 |
| 2. Debts due to charitable institutions                                                                                                                           | - | - | - | - | 30,420   | 9  | 1 |
| 3. Debts of L.100, and upwards, due to individuals                                                                                                                | - | - | - | - | 119,659  | 3  | 1 |
| 4. Debts under L.100, to ditto                                                                                                                                    | - | - | - | - | 11,439   | 18 | 6 |

---

(Besides the current interest) - - L.225,710 14 4

III. That the actual revenue applicable to payment of the interest of the debt due by the treasurer, appears to be as under, viz. :

|                                                                                                                                                     |         |    |    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|----|----|
| 1. The feu duties of lands and fishings, and average casualties of superiority                                                                      | L.1,280 | 2  | 10 |
| 2. The teind duties, ditto                                                                                                                          | 120     | 19 | 7  |
| 3. The rents of lands, houses, and ground, at Footdee, &c.                                                                                          | 1,756   | 6  | 2  |
| 4. The town's mills, public weigh-house, and bell and petty customs                                                                                 | 1,054   | 0  | 0  |
| 5. The interest of the debts due by the master of shore works, the trustees on the Stonehaven turnpike road, and the commissioners of the Bridewell | 2,720   | 12 | 3  |
| The estimated proportion of casualties payable to the treasury by entering burgesses                                                                | 100     | 0  | 0  |

---

L.7,032 0 10

|                                                          |         |    |   |
|----------------------------------------------------------|---------|----|---|
| The feu duties arising from the areas in the new streets | L.1,867 | 12 | 3 |
| The rents payable to the trustees of the new streets     | 1,400   | 0  | 0 |
|                                                          | 3,267   | 12 | 3 |

---

Total - L.10,299 13 1

A.D. 1817. sterling, besides the current interest ; that the gross annual revenue, from every source, was L.10,042 10s. and that the estimated value of the

|                                                                                                                |                 |           |    |    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------|----|----|
|                                                                                                                | Brought forward | L.10,299  | 13 | 1  |
| From which there fall to be deducted, the feu duties, and other public burdens, being                          | - - - -         | 257       | 3  | 1  |
| Amount, after the deduction of public burdens                                                                  |                 | L.10,042  | 10 | 0  |
| IV. That the following, in the opinion of the Committee, is the fair worth and value of these subjects, viz. : |                 |           |    |    |
| 1. Feu duties of lands and fishings, and of casualties of superiority                                          | -               | L.24,425  | 6  | 0  |
| 2. The lands within the freedom, houses, and ground at Footdee, and other property, under lease                | - - -           | 35,512    | 10 | 0  |
| 3. The town's mills, the public weigh-house, and bell and petty customs                                        | -               | 19,972    | 0  | 0  |
| 4. The building areas in St. Nicholas street, and near the meal market                                         |                 | 3,871     | 16 | 0  |
| 5. The debts due by the shoremaster, Stonehaven road, and the Bridewell                                        |                 | 54,412    | 4  | 10 |
| 6. The arrears of feu duties and rents due to the treasury—supposed recoverable                                | - - - -         | 1,247     | 0  | 0  |
| Treasury property, exclusive of new streets                                                                    |                 | L.139,440 | 16 | 10 |

In this valuation, the Committee did not include the town-house, or shops under it, the public schools, or the funds belonging to George Davidson's mortification, which last are applicable for payment of ministers' stipends; nor did they put any value upon the treasurer's reversionary interest in the shore dues.

#### NEW STREETS.

V. That the property belonging to the treasurer, for behoof of the new street trustees, may, in their opinion, be estimated as follows, viz. :—

|                                                                                                                                                                                                          |       |           |    |    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-----------|----|----|
| The feu duties receivable for building areas along Union street and King street, being L.1,867 12s. 3d. at 18 years purchase                                                                             | -     | L.33,317  | 6  | 0  |
| The value of building areas in Union street, from the Castle street to Broad street and Shiprow, not feued, with the materials of the houses at present on the ground, and a house in the Netherkirkgate | - -   | 11,650    | 0  | 0  |
| The value of building areas in this street, from Broad street, westward, to its extremity, Terrace, and buildings on the ground                                                                          | - - - | 33,156    | 11 | 0  |
| • Ditto, in King street, from the Castle street to its extremity, including the materials and houses in Garden's close                                                                                   |       | 23,727    | 8  | 0  |
| These valuations comprehend the common sewers, &c.                                                                                                                                                       |       |           |    |    |
| Value of the new streets                                                                                                                                                                                 |       | 106,851   | 5  | 0  |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                          |       | L.246,292 | 1  | 10 |

the whole property, of every description, was L.241,663 6s. 4d. sterling. By these means, there was an apparent reversion of L.15,952 12s. sterling, but how far it may be realized depends upon so many events and circumstances, that, at present, it is extremely difficult to say what may be the ultimate result. Various schemes have been proposed by the magistrates to the citizens, for extricating the affairs of the treasury from this embarrassment; these have been submitted to the consideration of the burgesses of guild, but none of them have met with their approbation.\*

z z 2

In

|                                                                                                                                             |           |       |      |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-------|------|
| Brought forward                                                                                                                             | L.246,292 | 1     | 10   |
| From which there falls to be deducted, the estimated value of certain feu and teind duties, and public burdens, being L.257 3s. 11d. yearly | -         | 4,628 | 15 6 |
| Total valuation, after deduction of public burdens                                                                                          | L.241,663 | 6     | 4    |
| Amount of the debts                                                                                                                         | 225,710   | 14    | 4    |
| Leaving a reversion of                                                                                                                      | L.15,952  | 12    | 0    |

\* The following are the outlines of the scheme which was proposed by the magistrates and town council, on the 19th of February, in an address to the citizens:—

|                                                                                                                    |   |   |   |   |           |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|-----------|
| “ By the books of the city chamberlain, it appears, that the debt due, as at Michaelmas last, by the treasury, was | - | - | - | - | L.162,900 |
| And that the sum due to the town's office-bearers, is                                                              | - | - | - | - | 63,429    |
| Total debt                                                                                                         |   |   |   |   | L.226,329 |
| And that the gross amount of his yearly income is                                                                  | - | - | - | - | L.10,300  |
| The annual permanent amount of municipal charges, &c. is about                                                     | - | - | - | - | 2,800     |
| Balance to pay interest of debt                                                                                    |   |   |   |   | L.7,500   |

“ It is understood by the magistrates and council, that if a yearly interest of four per cent. is paid to the creditors, with the conviction that their principal sums are well secured, they would remain perfectly satisfied.

|                                                                                       |         |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| “ The interest on the treasury debt, to individuals, &c. at 4 per cent. per annum, is | L.6,516 |
| And to the office-bearers, at the same rate                                           | 2,537   |
| Total interest on debt                                                                | L.9,053 |
| Balance, as above, to pay interest                                                    | 7,500   |
| Yearly deficiency of interest                                                         | L.1,553 |
| “ There                                                                               |         |



A.D. 1817.

In order to allay the ferment which had been occasioned by this alarming occurrence, and to quiet the minds of many who were deeply interested, a meeting of the creditors was convened, upon the 21st of that month, in the town-hall, when it was resolved, that the treasurer, magistrates, council, and the trustees under the act of parliament which had passed for the new streets, should grant a disposition and conveyance of the whole heritable and moveable public property

---

“ There will thus remain a deficiency in the yearly interest of L.1,553 ; but, as a great part of the treasurer's property is let at a low rate, on leases of longer or shorter duration, and as some of it is not at present productive, it may be presumed, that his yearly revenue will, from time to time, increase. This increase may be assumed as equal to one half per cent. on his debt, in every successive period of seven years ; and upon these grounds it is proposed, that the community shall agree to such an assessment as will enable him to pay the full interest of four per cent. until his own income shall be equal to it, or, eventually, five per cent. when he can realize it.

“ By this scheme it appears, that, in order to pay full four per cent. on the treasurer's debts, a yearly assessment would be required of L.1697 6s. 6d. for the period of seven years, and of L.565 13s. 6d. for a further period of seven years, when the treasurer would be fully able to pay four one-fourth per cent. and perhaps more. Indeed, it is highly probable, that, in a few years thereafter, he might be able to pay full five per cent. on the whole amount of his debts, which would be highly desirable, considering the large amount of charitable funds in his hands. Thus far an assessment is proposed, to pay interest, at the rate of four per cent. per annum. If the public spirit and liberality of the heritors, &c. within the burgh, and of those who will be affected by this measure, should induce them to submit to a further light assessment, for the purpose of *liquidating the debt*, the magistrates and council will clearly shew, that this object will be attained by a very easy rate of taxation, and in a manner that will give great confidence to the public creditor. They shall suppose, that, at the expiration of the first period of seven years, viz. in the year 1825, the assessment is to be continued at L.1700 per annum, which is about one half more than the present police tax, but, owing to the mode of assessment, will be even less felt ;—of this sum of L.1700, there is required, for seven years, the sum of L.565 13s. 6d. to pay the balance of interest ;—and the sum remaining (in round numbers, L.1200,) to be applied to the *reduction of the debt*. The whole to be placed under the management of trustees, to be named by an act of parliament.”

The address is followed by tables, and then proceeds to detail the operation of the scheme, and promises certain advantages to be derived by the community, in the event of its being adopted.

The scheme appears to have met with the approbation of Dr. Robert Hamilton, professor of mathematics, in Marischal College, to whom it had been submitted.

In return for such a pledge on the part of the community, the magistrates and council had no hesitation in declaring their opinion, that a share in the election of the magistrates of the borough ought, in justice, to be conceded ; and they further openly avowed their intention of sanctioning such a change in its constitution, and in the manner of exhibiting and auditing the public accounts, as should tend to promote and secure that mutual confidence which ought always to subsist between magistrates and their fellow citizens.

property vested in them, to twenty-one citizens, who were named, in trust, for the behoof of the creditors of the corporation. These resolutions having been acquiesced in by the meeting, the property was accordingly surrendered to the management of these trustees. Owing, however, to the stagnation of trade, and various other unfavourable circumstances, very little progress has yet been made in converting this property into money; but a small dividend has been paid to the creditors from the funds that have been realized. A.D. 1817.

These unfortunate occurrences have been the prelude to serious and important designs respecting the administration of the borough. The burgesses of guild, on the 15th February, having assembled, for the purpose of taking under their consideration the present situation of public affairs, adopted resolutions, expressive of their sentiments upon the events which had occurred. "They attributed the present disaster of the treasury to the bad system under which the borough had been governed, by the town council being self-elected; and to its administration having become as it were the inheritance of a few individuals, who, forming a secret junto, considered themselves irresponsible for their management to their fellow citizens. They asserted, that the ample endowments in fishings, lands, and other heritages, granted by our sovereigns, for the common good, to the provost, baillies, counsellors, burgesses, and their successors, have, during the course of years, been either dilapidated, or squandered upon improvident and ill-managed speculations. That, although they were most unwilling, at a moment like the present, to use expressions calculated to excite irritation, yet they would fail in duty to their successors, and to themselves, if they did not thus publicly disclaim every participation or concern in the system which had led to the present unhappy event. At the same time, as a circular letter had been sent by the magistrates to the several creditors of the treasury, insinuating, that the community and the heritage of the town were responsible for the debts which had been contracted, in the name of the treasurer, they publicly declared, that they did not consider themselves, either as burgesses of guild, proprietors of heritage, or as citizens, liable to one farthing of this debt. That the magistrates, among many other acts of mismanagement,

A.D. 1817. ment, had deviated from the enactments of the statute; and by a most unjustifiable course of concealment, had occasioned the unhappy consequences which have now burst forth, to the astonishment and deep concern of the public."

The funds of the guildry, under the administration of the magistrates and council, being very considerable, had, from time to time, been lent, under their authority, to the treasurer, to enable him to conduct the pernicious system to which he had been necessitated to resort, for supporting his credit, and for discharging the multifarious engagements to which he had been subjected. The burgesses, therefore, conceiving that they had an unquestionable interest in these funds, deemed it requisite to appoint a select committee\* of twenty of their number, as *conservators* of these funds, and of all matters where-in they were concerned. In the meanwhile, they delegated powers to this committee to attend the meetings of the creditors of the treasurer, to investigate the present state of the guildry funds, to ascertain whether any sales of land or property had been lately made, in which their interests had been compromised, and to bring under view all circumstances connected with these affairs.

During these transactions, some differences having arisen between the committee and the magistrates, with regard to the mode of inspecting the records, and examining the accounts of the guildry, another meeting of the burgesses was convened upon the 13th of March, when the committee submitted to their consideration a correspondence which had passed between them and the magistrates, on this subject. At that meeting, the burgesses unanimously approved of  
the

---

\* Forty-eight gentlemen having been nominated, the meeting proceeded to ballot for their committee, when the following were returned by the scrutineers, viz. :—

|                     |                        |                 |
|---------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| Robert Abercrombie  | James Forbes           | David Milne     |
| Thomas Bannerman    | John Forbes            | Alexander Pirie |
| Alexander Bannerman | William Forbes of Echt | William Pirie   |
| John Booth          | Robert Harvey          | John Rae        |
| Alexander Dingwall  | George Hogarth, jun.   | Alexander Rhind |
| John Ewen           | George Innes           | George Still    |
| Alexander Forbes    | George M'Kenzie        |                 |



the proceedings of the gentlemen of the committee; and, among other matters, resolved to insist upon obtaining access to all books and documents which they might deem essentially necessary for affording them information with relation to the state of the guildry funds, the uses to which these are strictly applicable, and to the general rights and interests of the burgesses of guild. They also agreed to open a subscription for raising funds to defray the charge of carrying their resolutions into effect. At the same time, they expressed their readiness to receive any communication, in writing, that the magistrates might think proper to make to them, through their committee; and it being the opinion of the meeting that the set of the borough should be *thrown open*, it was directed that this should be communicated to the magistrates. A.D. 1817.

In the course of this communication, the differences between the magistrates and the committee, with regard to the inspection of the records, having been accommodated, an act of the town council was passed, upon the 28th of March, by which it was resolved, that, although they were not aware of any right that entitled the burgesses at large to demand access to the records of the borough, yet, as a matter of courtesy and good will towards their fellow citizens, they were disposed to afford them that inspection, for the purpose of their obtaining the information which they required.

The council having, at the same time, taken under their consideration that part of the resolutions of the general meeting of the burgesses, of the 13th of March, which proposed the *set of the borough being thrown open*, unanimously resolved to accede to such a change both of it, and of the manner of auditing and exhibiting the public accounts, as should tend to promote and secure that mutual confidence which ought to subsist between magistrates and their fellow-citizens. But they expressed their disapprobation of any change that should be founded upon the principle of poll election, or universal suffrage, as being calculated only to introduce anarchy and confusion, without effecting any real improvement in the mode of election, or in the internal government of the borough.

These

A.D. 1817. These matters being thus far accommodated, the chairman and sub-committee of the burgesses proceeded to the examination of the records, and of the guildry accounts, in which they were occupied for several days. Having formed their report, it was presented to a general meeting of the burgesses, upon the 21st of April. In this report,\* the sub-committee exhibited a detail of the particular funds belonging to the guildry, under the sole administration of the magistrates, and expressed their sentiments to the meeting, upon the proposal

\* The committee, named at a general meeting of the burgesses of guild of Aberdeen, on the 15th February last, to a general meeting of their constituents, on the 21st April, 1817, reported, "That, after the general meeting, on the 13th March, they lost no time in again applying to the magistrates and council for leave to inspect the records of the city. Having obtained this permission, and having found the gentlemen of the magistracy, whom they had the pleasure to meet, ready to afford every information on the subject, it was their first object to endeavour to ascertain whether the burgesses of guild have now, or ever had, controul over the funds collected from their pockets, and designated "the guild box"—"the additional fund to ditto," applicable to charity—"the guild wine," to entertainments—and "the arms money," to cleaning the town's armour; all which are termed *guildry funds*. Your committee found, what they had reason to expect, under a system of self-elected governors, that the magistrates alone, under the existing law of the borough, have had, and now possess, sovereign controul, in raising, diminishing, and, at pleasure, appropriating, the admission dues. It appeared, therefore, unnecessary to enter into a detail of the documents and accounts laid before your committee, in regard to these funds, or to make any minute inquiry into the late sales of the lands of Skene, of which the burgesses may complain, but appear to have no right to challenge. The committee, however, cannot help remarking, the obvious imprudence of the dean of guild, in consenting to remove his funds from a quarter where they were so well secured, in order to lend them to the city treasurer, of whose pecuniary embarrassments he, the dean, could not, or at least ought not, to have been ignorant.

" It now only remains for the committee to submit to their constituents a brief abstract of the guildry funds, in so far as they have been able to ascertain them.

" The treasurer of Aberdeen was due, at Michaelmas last, to the guild box, additional fund to ditto, and guild brethren's hospital - - - £.19,810 12 3

“ N.B. Besides the above sum, these funds have right to 4-10ths of the revenue of the remaining part of the lands of Skene, which 4-10ths at present yield about 125 bolls of meal, and about £.108 sterling, of yearly rent ; but from these sums there falls to be deducted a proportion of public burdens. These funds have also right to a mortification of 400 merks Scots per annum, payable from the lands of Tippetty, and feu duties amounting to £.79 17s. 6d. with a proportion of the compositions from entering burgesses.

" The number of annuitants on these funds from Michaelmas, 1815, to Michaelmas, 1816, was 152 ; and the sum paid them was - £.911

proposal which had been made to them, in consequence of the act of A.D. 1817. council, with regard to a change in the set of the borough. The report

3 A

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |        |          |       |         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|----------|-------|---------|
| Brought forward                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | £.911  | £.19,810 | 12    | 3       |
| “ Besides the above sum, due to charitable funds, the treasurer was due to the guild wine fund, at Michaelmas, 1816,                                                                                                                    | -      | -        | 5,623 | 11 1    |
| “ N.B. This fund has also right to 3-10ths of the revenue of the remaining part of the lands of Skene, at the rate above-mentioned, and to feu-duties, amounting to £.41, and a proportion of the compositions from entering burgesses. |        |          |       |         |
| “ And the expenditure on this branch, from Michaelmas, 1815, to Michaelmas, 1816, was                                                                                                                                                   | -      | -        | -     | 390     |
| “ The treasurer was also due to the arms money fund, at Michaelmas, 1816,                                                                                                                                                               | -      | -        | -     | 561 1 8 |
| “ N.B. This fund has only right to a proportion of the compositions payable by entering burgesses.                                                                                                                                      |        |          |       |         |
| “ And the expenditure on this branch, from Michaelmas, 1815, to Michaelmas, 1816, was                                                                                                                                                   | -      | -        | -     | 51      |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |        |          |       |         |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | £.1332 | £.25,995 | 5     | 0       |

“ The burgesses will, therefore, at once, see, that the only revenue applicable to charitable purposes, from the funds under the management of the dean of guild, and master of guild brethren's hospital, arises from the items above stated, and whatever annual interest the estate of the treasurer may pay on £.19,810 12s. 3d. With regard to the guild wine fund, the expenditure last year was great, owing, as your committee understand, to a large stock of wine having been laid in, but which is still remaining on hand. To do the magistrates justice, the entertaining system, of late years, has been greatly diminished; and your committee would fain hope they need but hint, that it only requires an act of council to appropriate, in future, the interest that may be recovered on the sum due by the treasurer on this fund, to that of the charitable one. The arms money fund requires no remark.”

After some remarks concerning the admission dues of burgesses, the committee conclude with observing, “ that neither the opinion of a convention of burgesses, the sanction of the town council, nor the concession of the magistrates, will be required; but that, upon a proper representation, higher authority will re-model the government of a Scottish borough which has deservedly expired. The *suffrage* which that authority may grant, the committee had no doubt, would give universal satisfaction to the citizens. They were also sensible, that the burgesses felt with the magistrates the difficulties by which the affairs of the city were, at present, surrounded. At the same time, they remarked, that these difficulties have arisen, not from the plans of improvement which, the magistrates say, were originally sanctioned by the citizens, but from a most unjustifiable concealment on the part of a few individuals; and that it was a matter of no importance to the community, whether these have been actuated by pure motives; led off by wild, extravagant, and ill-managed speculations; or whether they wanted understanding.”



A.D. 1817. port having met with the approbation of the meeting, an adjournment took place till Monday the 18th of the subsequent month of August, when they intended to take under their consideration the propriety of petitioning the king, in council, to grant such change in the administration of the borough as might be deemed proper.

In the meanwhile, as the proposal which had been made by the magistrates in the month of February, for extricating the treasury from its present difficulty, by an assessment upon the citizens, had not met with the approbation of the burgesses, nor had, indeed, been much attended to by the generality of those who were to be affected by its operation, the magistrates and council thought it advisable to bring forward the scheme of assessment, under a new shape, and, by every mean in their power, to attempt a conciliation with their fellow citizens.

On the 30th of August, a meeting of the burgesses was convened in the town-hall, under the authority of Mr. Read, the dean of guild, and numerous attended. In supporting the scheme which had been now digested by his colleagues in the magistracy, he took a comprehensive view of the circumstances which led to the insolvency of the treasury, and of the subsequent proceedings, which were now become familiar to the public mind. He detailed, at great length, the outlines, and explained, in a very able and distinct manner, the objects of the plan. Those objects went to an application purposed to be made to parliament, for authority to assess the property and trade of the town, nearly in the manner which had been proposed in the address of the 19th of February, formerly submitted to the public. This assessment was intended to be 2s. on each L.100, Scottish money, of valued rents of houses, lands, fishings, &c.; and the same rate on each L.100 sterling, of trade. At the same time, the dean of guild stated, that, while the magistrates and council renewed the proposal of a general assessment, as the only means that could be effectual for obviating the present difficulties, and for restoring the credit of the treasury, in which every citizen must be more or less interested; they were not unmindful of the opinion which they had formerly expressed, that, in return for such a pledge on the  
part

part of the community, a share in the election of the town council ought, in justice, to be conceded. He declared, however, that they were well aware, that, in discussing a measure of so deep importance as even a partial change of the constitution and laws, under which the royal boroughs had been so long governed, great circumspection and entire freedom from prejudice were requisite. They were also fully impressed with a conviction, that, as guardians, in part, of this constitution, and official conservators of the public privileges, they would depart from that duty which they owed to their fellow citizens, if they were to yield to the full tide of popular opinion. In these sentiments they were confirmed by declarations, which have been openly avowed, that nothing less would satisfy the burgesses than the election of all the members of the town council. Were this to be made the ground of any specific measure for the above purpose, they were convinced that it never would receive the sanction of the convention of royal boroughs, or of the British parliament.

In proposing, therefore, and supporting such a change in the *set* of the borough, and in the manner of exhibiting and passing the public accounts, as may be sanctioned by the legislature, so as to afford the citizens a proper controul over the yearly expenditure, and a voice in the election of the town council, the magistrates and council presumed to think that they had done every thing which was incumbent on them for restoring the credit of the incorporation, and for redeeming the pledge which they had formerly made to their fellow citizens. The dean of guild having then exhibited the outlines of the proposed plan\* for changing the mode of electing the council,

3 A 2

cil,

---

\* The following clauses exhibit the views of the council on this subject :—

“ 1. A head court of the burgesses of guild shall be held annually, on the first Wednesday of September, to be called by the dean of guild, who shall preside at the meeting.

“ 2. At this meeting, there shall be nominated and appointed, by signed lists, to be given in by the burgesses, thirteen persons, members of the guildry, who are to compose the guild court for the then ensuing year ; and to whom shall be referred, all such matters as have been in use to be determined by the guild court in time past.

“ 3. The dean of guild for the time, the sheriff-substitute of Aberdeenshire, the town clerk of Aberdeen, and one person to be named by the meeting, shall be appointed scrutineers of the signed

A.D. 1817. cil, &c. concluded with suggesting, that, if the meeting were pleased to approve, generally, of the substance of the scheme which had been now submitted to them, the whole should be referred to a committee of their number, to meet with another committee of the magistrates and council, to consider and to report their opinion upon the expediency and propriety of the plan which had been proposed, and the best means of carrying it, or such other measures as might be adopted, in-  
to

lists or votes so given in. They shall be sworn to the due and faithful execution of this office ; and shall make a true return of the persons who have the greatest number of votes.

“ 4. The guild court, so chosen as aforesaid, shall be called by the dean of guild, to meet on the first Wednesday after their election, and shall proceed to nominate and appoint, by a majority of votes of its members, one of their number as dean ; the return of whose election, together with the names of the other twelve gentlemen composing the guild court, shall be intimated to the magistrates of Aberdeen, by letter, addressed to the town clerk, at least eight days previous to the day of the annual election of magistrates and council.

“ 5. Upon the said day of election, the person who shall be so nominated by the guild court, shall be admitted and chosen by the magistrates and council, as dean of guild of the burgh for the then ensuing year.

“ 6. Upon said day of election, the magistrates and council shall, from the list of the twelve burgesses composing the guild court, elect two, as members of the town council of the burgh for the ensuing year.

“ 7. Of the remaining ten members of the guild court, three shall, in like manner, be elected as auditors of the town's accounts, along with the two trades counsellors, and other four members of the town council ; three as conservators of the guild box and poor's funds, in conjunction with the provost and magistrates ; and four as commissioners under the proposed act for the liquidation of the public debt of the borough ; along with the provost and eldest baillie of Aberdeen, president of the society of advocates, president of the society of shipmasters, and convener of the incorporated trades, all for the time being : and four others, to be chosen by the heritors, and those carrying on trade within the borough, not being burgesses of guild.

“ 8. The town's accounts, after being audited, shall lie open, at the office of the city chamberlain, for the space of one month, after the yearly reading at the Michaelmas head court.

“ 9. The convener court of the incorporated trades shall, in like manner, meet upon the first Wednesday of September annually ; and shall nominate and appoint two of their number as trades counsellors ; which two may either be deacons of crafts, or the convener of the trades for the time, and one deacon.

“ 10. The nomination of the said deacons, or convener and deacon, shall be intimated to the magistrates at least eight days previous to the day of the annual election of magistrates and council ; on which day, the said persons, so nominated by the convener court, shall be elected and chosen as trades counsellors of the burgh for the then ensuing year.”



to effect. On this scheme, however, no determinate resolutions were, A.D. 1817.  
at this time, formed; and the meeting adjourned to a future day.  
In the meanwhile, the propositions from the magistrates were ordered  
to be printed, and dispersed among the burgesses at large.

These expedients on the part of the magistrates do not seem to  
have been well calculated to promote a good understanding between  
them and the burgesses. From the proceedings which had taken  
place at this meeting, it was evident that all confidence was lost; for  
the scheme which had been proposed by the dean of guild, on behalf  
of his colleagues, did not meet with general approbation, was eluded,  
and the committee which he had suggested was not appointed.

However anxious the magistrates and council may have been to  
conciliate the good will of those who were most adverse to their mea-  
sures, so as to extricate the affairs of the corporation from their present  
embarrassment, and to restore the credit of the treasury, it was ma-  
nifest that a political animosity divided them, and that they had  
little prospect of regaining that confidence which had been lost, or  
of accomplishing the object in view. Indeed, at no time are feeble  
and temporising measures of those who are in power, when united  
with rising demands upon the people, likely to contribute to any  
good purpose; and when those assemble to deliberate, in a situation  
where they might be expected to act, the result will always be unfavourable.

On the 13th of September, the burgesses again assembled, in consequence of the adjournment, and took under their consideration the statement of the dean of guild, and the address of the magistrates and council. Being fully aware of the principles on which it proceeded, they adopted resolutions, expressing their decided opinion against the scheme which had been proposed. In these they observed, "that, although the statement and address might afterwards require animadversion, yet, at present, a detailed answer to it was inexpedient. They also remarked, "that, while it neither defended, nor offered any satisfactory apology for the prosecution of measures which were unjustifiable, and highly reprehensible, it attempted to put a gloss on the conduct of the magistrates and council, and to  
draw

A.D. 1817. draw an inference from the spirit of the new street act, in a manner and by a species of reasoning, which, so far from convincing, conveyed an insult to the understanding of those to whom it was addressed. That no apology could be well offered in justification of the conduct of those, who, under concealment, had contracted L.230,000 of debt. That, although they were, many years ago, aware, that their income was inadequate to the payment of the interest of this debt, yet they had continued to add to it, by borrowing money to pay an accumulation of interest to the amount of L.57,000, without the prospect or possibility of their being ever in a situation to pay the principal. That the burgesses have invariably entertained, and uniformly expressed, but one sentiment with regard to the impropriety of this debt being contracted, by persons who did not represent the community, without the knowledge or consent of the citizens. That the money had been applied to the prosecution of measures, over which there was no controul; and, therefore, that the citizens were not responsible for any part of it: nor did the act for the new streets confer any authority upon the treasurer of Aberdeen to interpose his credit, on behalf of the trustees, so as to subject the community.

“ That, in reference to the proposal of the magistrates and council for an alteration of the set of the borough, the meeting are impressed with a firm persuasion, that, by divesting themselves of the whole patrimony of the community, and transferring it to trustees, they had incapacitated themselves from performing the duties incumbent on them by their charters. That they had virtually and in fact disfranchised the borough; and the magistrates and council having now no power to grant, nor consequently the burgesses any right to receive from them an alteration in the set of the borough, it would become necessary for the burgesses, in due time, to apply to the king, in council, for such a change in it as would alone call forth the energies of the citizens, and restore public confidence. That, in the opinion of the meeting, this could be effected only by granting to the burgesses of guild, and the incorporated artificers, the elective franchise of the town council, and thereby effectually preventing the management of the affairs of the town from ever falling again

again into the hands of particular jundos.\* That notice having unexpectedly appeared in the newspaper, that a bill was to be brought into

A.D. 1817.

---

\* Probably by this they had in view the case of the borough of Montrose, which had been recently disfranchised, and had, about this time, obtained from the crown a new set, or constitution, on account of the following circumstance:—On the 7th June, 1817, the borough of Montrose was disfranchised, by a judgment of the court of session, which found that the election for Michaelmas, 1816, having been conducted by balloting for each member, *seriatim*, in place of the former practice of marking the vote by scores, was illegal, and, therefore, reduced and set it aside.

The burgesses, trades, householders, and other inhabitants, applied, by petition, to his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, beseeching an alteration and amendment of the former set or constitution of the borough. This petition having been referred to the consideration of his Majesty's Attorney-General, the Lord Advocate of Scotland, and his Majesty's Solicitor-General, and also to a committee of the Lords of the Privy Council, who made their report thereupon; the Prince Regent, in the name and on the behalf of his Majesty, and by and with the advice of his privy council, was pleased to issue an act and warrant for a poll election; and authorised and commanded the guild brethren, members of the incorporated trades, and inhabitants, burgesses, who resided in the said borough at and previous to Michaelmas, 1816, to assemble themselves at the town-hall, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, upon Monday the 15th day of October next, and then and there to elect fit persons, not exceeding nineteen in number, properly qualified, in terms of the set and usage of the borough, to be magistrates and town counsellors; the election to be made in manner specified in the act. "And, for the better order and good government of the said borough, in time to come, his Royal Highness is further pleased, in the name and on the behalf of his Majesty, and by and with the advice of his Majesty's privy council, to alter the former set, or constitution, of the said borough; and to order and direct that the said set, or constitution, shall, in all time coming, be as follows. That the town council shall, as formerly, consist of nineteen persons, including, in the said number, the provost, three baillies, the dean of guild, treasurer, and the master of the hospital,—of which nineteen, fifteen shall be resident guild brethren, and four shall be resident craftsmen, including the deacon convener, for the time. That, at the election to be made at the Michaelmas next ensuing the said poll election, and at all future elections, the six eldest counsellors for the time, from the guildry, who have not served in any of the offices after-mentioned, for the year preceding; and the whole four counsellors from the craftsmen, shall go out, but shall, nevertheless, be re-eligible, if their respective constituents shall think fit. That, upon the Monday of the week immediately preceding Michaelmas, in each year, the magistrates and council shall meet and declare the names of the six guild counsellors, who go out in rotation; and also what vacancies have arisen during the preceding year, by death, non-acceptance, resignation, or otherwise, in the number of guild counsellors. That, on the following day, being Tuesday, the guildry incorporation shall assemble at their ordinary place of meeting, and shall first elect their dean of guild, and six members of the guildry, as his council for the ensuing year; and the person so chosen as dean of guild shall, in virtue of his office, be a magistrate and counsellor of the borough; and the said incorporation shall then proceed to fill up the vacancies in the number of merchant counsellors, occasioned by rotation, non-acceptance, resignation, death, or otherwise, during the preceding year. That the seven incorporated trades of Montrose shall also assemble together in one place, on the said Tuesday, and shall first elect their deacon convener, who shall, in virtue of his office, be a counsellor, to represent the trades, and they shall then proceed to elect other three in the room of



A.D. 1817. into parliament next session, for imposing a heavy assessment on the trade and heritage of the town, and within its liberties, the meeting determined to oppose it by such legal ways and means as were in their power."

These resolutions having passed, without much opposition, a committee of twenty burgesses was chosen, for the purpose of carrying the essential parts of them into effect, for attending to the interests of the community in the present crisis, and for concerting measures necessary to be adopted in the affairs committed to their charge.\*

The day of the annual election of new counsellors, for the ensuing year, now approaching, the magistrates and other members of the town council, to the number of seventeen, thought it proper to adopt another expedient, with a view to conciliate matters with their fellow citizens, in the present situation of public affairs. On the 20th of September, being the day of the ordinary head court, previous to the election, they published an act, or declaration, in which they expressed

---

those who retire from office; and that two of the four trades counsellors, so to be elected, may be guild brethren, being always operative craftsmen, and the persons electing them shall have no vote in the guild, in the same election; but the other two trades counsellors shall be operative craftsmen and burgesses only. That the council shall meet on the Wednesday immediately preceding Michaelmas, unless Michaelmas day shall happen to be upon Wednesday, in which case they shall meet on Michaelmas day, and conclude the annual election for the ensuing year, by continuing the *ex officiis* members, electing the two members of council who do not go out by rotation, and receiving the new members from the guildry and trades; and, after such election, and receiving the new counsellors, the members, both of the old and new council, shall, according to the former set of the borough, choose a provost, three baillies, a treasurer, and hospital master; that the provost, baillies, treasurer, and hospital master, shall not be continued in their offices longer than two years together, but they, with the dean of guild, shall remain, *ex officiis*, members of the council, for the year immediately following that in which they shall have served in these offices respectively."

\* At this meeting about 500 attended, and the following gentlemen were voted as members of this committee:—

| Messrs. Robert Abercrombie | Messrs. James Forbes   | Messrs. George M'Kenzie |
|----------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Alex. Bannerman            | John Forbes            | James Mellis            |
| Charles Bannerman          | William Forbes of Echt | David Milne             |
| John Booth                 | James Gordon           | John Rae                |
| Alex. Dingwall             | James Harthill         | Alex. Rhind             |
| John Ewen                  | Robert Harvey          | George Still            |
| Alex. Forbes               | George Innes           |                         |

pressed their sincere and unqualified regret, that their endeavours to lighten and remove the public burdens had failed of that successful result which they had so earnestly desired, and that they were compelled to leave the affairs of the borough in a state of embarrassment, which, as it had been a source of much vexation and distress to themselves, could not fail to be attended with considerable difficulty to those who might be destined to succeed them. They remarked, that, in their efforts to restore public confidence, their motives had been misconstrued and perverted; and their proposals and plans had been received with a degree of prejudice and distrust. They again expressed their decided opinion, that the present mode of electing the town council, and conducting the management of the public affairs, is radically defective and improvident; that some change in it ought to be effected, and a controul given to the citizens over the expenditure of the public funds.\*

3 B

This

---

\* " COUNCIL CHAMBER, ABERDEEN, Sept. 19, 1817.

" Looking to the present calamitous situation of the borough of Aberdeen, the members of the town council, who have affixed their signatures to this paper, cannot allow themselves to retire from office, without expressing their sincere and unqualified regret, that their endeavours to lighten and remove the public burdens have failed of that successful result, which they so earnestly desired; and that they are compelled to leave the affairs of the borough in a state of embarrassment, which, as it has been a source of much vexation and distress to themselves, must still prove one of considerable difficulty to those who may be destined to succeed them, unless immediate steps are taken to redeem the credit of the corporation. In justice to themselves, however, they are desirous to place upon record their sentiments and opinions, in reference to some of the various topics arising out of the embarrassments of the city treasury.

" This has become the more necessary, from their having discovered, that, in their efforts for the restoration of public confidence, their motives have been misconstrued and perverted, and their proposals and plans received with a degree of prejudice and distrust, which, they will be bold enough to say, their personal and private characters are sufficient to invalidate and disprove. Be this as it may, they are aware, that the sincerity of their intentions can be known but by few, and may be doubted of by many; and, therefore, they here reiterate their decided opinion, that the present mode of election of the town council, and management of the town's affairs, are radically defective and improvident, tending to give to any individual or party, who may be so inclined, an excessive and unnatural preponderance; and to foster and encourage a concealment, under which the most upright magistrate, with the best intentions, may not be able to acquire that thorough knowledge of the situation of the borough, which is requisite for the due administration of its affairs. The subscribers are, therefore, of opinion, that some change ought to be effected in the manner of electing the council, and an effectual controul given to the citizens over the expenditure of the town's office-bearers.

" The extent of this change it is not for them to determine; they would only, at this time, urge the necessity of it. In the history of every well regulated government, they recognize the happy

A.D. 1817.

This declaration, however well intended it may have been, was but ill calculated to regain the confidence of the citizens. It was considered by many as inexpedient and imprudent. It was unrequired; and, in the present situation of public affairs, could answer no good purpose; but rather tended to foster the political animosity which still subsisted, and to intimidate those whom they had in view as their successors from accepting offices in the magistracy. Indeed, the result of the subsequent election evinced this to have been the case; for, of nineteen counsellors who were chosen on the 24th of September, thirteen positively refused to accept; six only thought it proper to enter upon their administration, four of whom were members of the old council. In this state of public affairs, there is, at the present time, a manifest defect in the executive government of the town.

Under these peculiar circumstances, the three baillies, the master of shore works, and two counsellors, who accepted, entertaining a doubt of the powers and authority which had been conferred upon them, were advised to present a memorial and submission to the king  
in

---

effects of those salutary checks, which can alone restrain public officers in the execution of their duties, whether holding political or local jurisdiction; and to the absence of such checks, in the constitution of this borough, do the subscribing members of the town council ascribe the heavy calamity which has befallen it. To the system solely is it owing; for, with regard to the individuals who have preceded them in the administration of that system, they must aver, that they believe their hands to be clean, as their motives have been pure and disinterested. With these sentiments the subscribers have long been impressed, and the experience of the last few months has too fatally confirmed their truth and justice. The time approaches when they are to retire from this board, and they, therefore, feel, that they have but one other duty to perform—and that is, earnestly to recommend to their successors in office to direct their earliest attention to a renovation of the system of government of this borough, in all its various bearings; satisfied that, if such a salutary and satisfactory change shall be effected therein as is indispensable to the restoration of public confidence, there will not be wanting, among the public-spirited inhabitants of this city, a disposition to go hand in hand with its municipal rulers, (whoever they may be) in carrying “Bon Accord” through all its difficulties.”\*

|          |              |                |               |              |
|----------|--------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|
| (Signed) | Alex. Fraser | Charles Hacket | P. Taylor     | D. Chalmers  |
|          | Alex. Duncan | Wm. Read       | Alex. Simpson | Jas. Cantly  |
|          | Alex. Brown  | Gavin Hadden   | Geo. Thomson  | Robt. Walker |
|          | James Milne  | Ja. Hadden     | Alex. Galen   | H. Gordon    |
|          | Wm. Lumsden  |                |               |              |

\* On the 25d of September, another statement was published by the magistrates and council, explanatory of this declaration, and recorded in the Council Register. A copy of this paper will be found in the Appendix, No. 11.



in council, narrating the embarrassing situation in which they were placed by the non-acceptance of so large a proportion of the council, and praying his Majesty, by and with the advice of the privy council, to interpose such remedy as to his wisdom might seem fit. But, in the present situation of matters, it may be doubted how far the crown will interfere. In arbitrary times, previous to the revolution, the crown did not hesitate to interfere in such cases, and often appointed, on an emergency, or at pleasure, magistrates and counsellors; but this was one of the grievances of which the people had so much cause to complain at that eventful period. Since the revolution, we believe no instance has occurred of the sovereign exercising his authority in an election, or altering the constitution of a royal borough, unless where it had been deprived of legitimate magistrates and counsellors, by reason of the disorders of the country during the rebellions in the years 1715 and 1745, or disfranchised by the supreme court, in consequence of some malversation in the administrators.

Meanwhile, a complaint, in name of two burgesses, and of several members of the incorporations, has been preferred to the court of session, for setting aside the election of the magistrates and counsellors who were appointed at Michaelmas last, on the ground of certain irregularities having taken place on that occasion. At the same time, the burgesses have preferred, to the same court, a petition, stating the occurrences that have recently happened, and the manifest defect in the administration of the town, and prayed the court to exercise its authority in the appointment of proper persons, *ad interim*, to discharge the functions of magistrates and of counsellors of the borough. These questions will, therefore, now fall to be determined by the court, *ex nobili officio*.\*

3 B 2

In

---

\* Amidst these domestic dissensions, the minds of all ranks of the people have been greatly afflicted by the premature and lamented death of her Royal Highness the Princess Charlotte Augusta, the only child of his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, and consort of his Serene Highness the Prince Leopold of Saxe-Cobourg, after having given birth to a still-born male child. This melancholy event, for some time, spread among the citizens an uncommon sensation of sorrow; and, being considered as a severe calamity to the hereditary monarchy of Britain, could not be contemplated

A.D. 1818.

In the beginning of this year, the important questions between the burgesses and others, and those who had been called as parties in their several actions, came to be agitated before the second division of the court of session; and the causes were ably and keenly argued on both sides. In the petition and complaint for annulling the election, the complainers pleaded, that the six persons who pretended to describe themselves, some as magistrates, and others as counsellors, had no right whatever to assume these characters; that, by the non-acceptance of the other thirteen, the members of council had been reduced below the number necessary for constituting a quorum, and that, therefore, the election was null and void. Independent of this objection, they stated, 1st. That the gentleman who had been chosen provost was not qualified for the office, being an honorary burgess only, and not an actual indweller, carrying on trade and traffic within the town. 2d. That, although it is provided by the set of the borough that the meeting of the old and new councils, for the purpose of electing the magistrates and office bearers, shall consist of forty persons; and that, if any of the proper members shall be absent on that occasion, an equal number of qualified persons shall be selected and chosen to vote in their places, under the denomination of assistants, yet that William Rae, one of these assistants at the late election, was not a burgess. For these reasons, the complainants prayed that the election might be annulled. On the part of the respondents, it was maintained, that the person who had been chosen  
provost,

---

without feelings of deep concern. She died on the 6th of November, in the 22d year of her age, having been born on the 7th of January, 1796, and married on the 2d of May, 1816. Her body was entombed, with the greatest marks of solemnity, in the royal cemetery, at Windsor, on the 19th of November. This day being observed in Aberdeen as a solemn fast, all public business was suspended; the churches and chapels were hung with black, and open for divine service both morning and evening. Deep mourning was almost universally worn by all ranks of the citizens, who, by every exterior symptom, testified the sincerity of their grief on the melancholy occasion. The ships in the harbour displayed their flags half mast high, and the bells were tolled, at intervals, during the course of the day.

As this is the chronological order in which this calamitous event occurred, and as we could not, without injustice to the citizens of Aberdeen, totally omit to notice their expressions of loyalty, which were not inferior to those of any other part of the kingdom, we thought it expedient to mention the circumstance in the form of a note, rather than break the connexion of our narrative by mentioning it in the text.

provost, although he had not accepted, was eligible, as being an honorary burgess. In support of this plea, they adduced an instance where one, in a similar situation, had filled the office of provost, for several years, without challenge; and, with regard to the objection to Rae's vote, they contended, that it was not necessary, by the terms of the set of the borough, that the assistants at the election should be qualified as burgesses. A.D. 1818.

On the 10th of March, the court proceeded to determine this important case, which was taken up solely on the ground of the last objection. The judges were unanimously of opinion, that Rae, not being a burgess, was disqualified from voting; and that, by such disqualification, there was a defect in the number of forty votes, requisite to constitute the meeting. The objection was accordingly sustained, and the election annulled as illegal.\* On the subsequent day, the court, upon the petition of the burgesses, nominated and appointed the three baillies who had been elected and accepted, to officiate in that character, *ad interim*, for the special purpose of receiving resignations, or giving seizins in any lands held burgage. They also appointed six other burgesses,† to take charge, in the meantime, of the

---

\* EDINBURGH, March 10, 1818.

The Lords having advised this petition and complaint, with answers thereto, replies and duplies, in respect that William Rae, not being a burgess of Aberdeen, was ineligible to vote in the election, instead of one of the guild brethren, absent from the same, and that thereby there was a defect in the number of forty votes, required to be present thereat: Find, that the whole proceedings of the said Meetings on the twenty-fourth day of September last were illegal; and that the election, pretended to have been then made, of Counsellors, Magistrates, and Office bearers of the city of Aberdeen, was illegal, void, and null, to all intents and purposes; and reduce and set aside the same accordingly, and decern: Find it unnecessary to decide on any of the other objections proposed: Find expences due, and remit to the auditor to report on the account thereof, when lodged: Supersede extract till the first box day in the ensuing vacation, and, in case a petition shall be then given in, supersede extract till the petition shall be disposed of by the court; but in case no petition shall be given in on the first box day in the vacation, then allow an interim decree to be extracted, and to go out quoad the merits of the cause.

(Signed)

WILLIAM MILLER, J. P. D.

† EDINBURGH, March 11, 1818.

The Lords having considered the said petition, with answers thereto, replies and duplies, and the practice of the court on similar occasions, with the judgment reducing and setting aside the election of Counsellors, Magistrates, and Office bearers, of the city of Aberdeen; they nominate and appoint Robert Garden, David Chalmers, and James Milne, Esqrs. and, failing their acceptance, Alex. Dun-



A.D. 1818. the funds, or patrimonial interest of the city, and of the other funds under the management of the ordinary office bearers of the town.

In concluding this narrative, we are perfectly aware that we have subjected ourselves to the imputation of blame, by having expatiated too much on topics which are ephemeral, and, perhaps, may be regarded as uninteresting to many readers ; and by having introduced matters, respecting which there has been, and still is, a contrariety of opinions. The only apology that can be offered, is, that while we were engaged in preparing this branch of our work, there occurred, in the town, many events and circumstances of a momentous nature, which could not, in justice to our narrative, be entirely omitted. These necessarily led us to take a retrospective view of several past occurrences ; because these occurrences had, in some measure, prepared the way for some of the transactions of the present period, and are so intimately connected with them, that, without some attention to the former, the latter could not be correctly understood.

If the political affairs of the corporation are finally settled before this work is published, we shall add some additional account in an Appendix.

*For Volunteers, Miscellaneous Articles, Fiars of the County, vide Appendix.*

ANNALS

---

can and Charles Walker, Esqrs. to be Baillies of the said city, ad interim, until the magistracy may be restored, and that for the special purpose of receiving resignations, or giving sasine in any lands held burgage ; also, appoint Robert Abercrombie, Esq. merchant in Aberdeen, to take charge, in the meantime, of the funds or patrimonial interest of the city, in the same way as was, before the said election, competent to the Treasurer thereof, he finding caution, before extract, for his intromission with the funds ; also appoint Alexander Dingwall, Esq. ad interim, Master of Kirk and Bridge Works ; John Forbes, Esq. ad interim, Master of Mortifications ; Alexander Forbes, Esq. ad interim, Master of Guild Brethren's Hospital ; and William Johnston, Esq. and, failing his acceptance, Alexander Rhind, Esq. ad interim, Master of Shore Works ; they severally finding caution, before extract, for their intromissions, in virtue of said appointment ; and, lastly, appoint Alexander Bannerman, Esq. ad interim, Dean of Guild of the said city ; superseding extract till the first box day in the ensuing vacation ; and also, in case a reclaiming petition shall then be presented, complaining of the judgment reducing the election, superseding extract further till the same shall be disposed of ; and ordain the said petition, with this deliverance thereon, to be recorded in the books of sederunt.

(Signed)

WILLIAM MILLER, J. P. D.

# ANNALS

OF

## ABERDEEN.

---

### BOOK II.

---

#### CHAPTER I.

*Of the ancient and present state of the Town of Aberdeen, Suburbs, &c.—Harbour—and progressive improvements—Aberdeenshire Canal.*

THE town of Aberdeen is placed on an elevated situation, at the south-east extremity of that division of the county, formerly distinguished by the name of Mar, and in 57 degrees 8. 59. of north latitude, and of longitude 2 degrees 8. 0. west from London. It is distant about a mile from the efflux of the river Dee. The harbour and quays form its south boundary, and the Castlehill its termination upon the east. The ground upon which the older parts of the town have been built is very irregular, being formed, in a great measure, of small hills, known by the names of Castlehill, Saint Katharine's hill, Schoolhill, Woolmanhill, and Porthill. In the course of ages, the surface of the ground has undergone many alterations, which have been occasioned chiefly by frequent accidental fires, when the buildings were composed of wood, and other combustible materials; and particularly by the conflagration in the reign of King David II. when the town was set on fire and completely destroyed by the English.

In

In rebuilding houses after the calamity of fire, the owners seem to have made no great exertion in clearing away the ruins and rubbish. By the accumulation of these, in the progress of time, many of the old streets have been raised above their ancient level, and hollow parts have been filled up. These circumstances become evident at the present time, when the foundations of houses are digging in many parts of the town.

The circumference of Aberdeen, in the seventeenth century, was calculated to be only 2141 double paces.\* It is now about 4500 yards, without including Futtie, or any part of Gilcomston.

The village of Futtie, which was formerly occupied chiefly by white-fishers,† is situated betwixt the town and the efflux of the river Dee, and forms its suburb on this quarter. On the west side of the Gallowgate there was formerly a considerable sheet of water, now much confined, and distinguished by the name of the Loch, which supplies the public mills with water for driving their machinery.

It has already been remarked, that King James V. in the year 1529, had granted his royal licence to the magistrates to fortify the town with walls, and other works of defence; but it does not appear, that it ever had been encompassed by a wall on any quarter: at least, no vestiges of any such are now remaining, or were to be seen within the memory of man. In ancient times, when the disorders of the kingdom required that the citizens should confine themselves within the gates of the town, and adopt measures of precaution for its safety, the avenues or vennels leading to the fields were generally built up, or so secured as to prevent any sudden entrance of an enemy. This, joined with the contiguity of the buildings, and garden walls, answered every purpose of defence. The gates of the  
town,

---

\* History of Aberdeen, by *Philopoliteus*, p. 212.

† In the year 1809, two courts of buildings were erected, by the treasurer of Aberdeen, for dwelling houses to the white fishers, on the north side of the new pier, where they now reside. Six fishing boats, besides several yawls, are employed, in favourable weather, for taking white fish, chiefly for supplying the inhabitants with that commodity; and occasionally the fishers are engaged as pilots.



town, leading to the suburbs, were six in number, substantially built, and secured with catbands and locks, in times of disorder in the country. They were distinguished by the name of ports.

#### THE GALLOWGATE PORT

Was situated near the extremity of the street known by that name, and on the south-west corner of the lane which leads towards the Porthill. As far back as the year 1518, it was regarded as having pretensions to antiquity. The royal arms, which were placed over it, having been defaced by time, were ordered to be renewed, and the fabric itself to be repaired, the expense being defrayed by the fines and forfeitures of the courts of the borough.\*

#### JUSTICE PORT

Was constructed in the year 1439, on the north-east corner of the Castlegate, near the entry to the Gardener's lane; and the expense, being five merks, was defrayed by the fine of admission of a burgess of guild. In the year 1587, it underwent considerable alterations and repairs, under the directions of the town clerk, and the expense, being forty merks, was paid by the dean of guild.† This fabric was, in ancient times, appropriated to the exposure of the heads and limbs of malefactors, who had suffered the severest punishment of the law. Hence it obtained the name by which it was distinguished.

#### FUTTIE'S PORT

Stood on the south-east corner of the Castlegate, and being in the line of the ordinary communication with the suburbs, called Fut-tie, was known by that name; but when it was erected we have not been informed.

#### TRINITY, OR QUAY-HEAD PORT

Was erected in the south end of the Shiprow, within a few yards of the Shorebrae, and was removed early in the eighteenth century.

S c

As

---

\* Council Register, vol. x. p. 140.

† Ibid. vol. iv. p. 208. vol. xxxii. p. 272.

As it led to the Trinity Friars' place, as well as to the quay, it obtained these names.

#### NETHERKIRKGATE PORT.

When this structure was erected cannot be discovered. It was situated close upon the entry to the lane, which leads from the street to the flour-mill.

#### UPPERKIRKGATE PORT.

This appears to have been an ancient structure, and was situated in the west end of the street, about sixty yards eastward of the present Tannery-street. Previous to the year 1585, a gallery had been erected over it, having apartments which communicated with the adjoining house, on the north side. In that year, Patrick Davidson, the proprietor of the tenement, obtained permission from the magistrates and council to repair the gallery. In the year 1793, it was purchased by the treasurer, in consequence of an act of council, at L.140 sterling of price; and the whole structure was soon afterwards demolished.\*

About the year 1768, when the number of wheel carriages had considerably increased, the gates were found to be extremely inconvenient, and a great obstruction to loaded carriages. An act of council was, therefore, passed, ordaining all the ports to be taken down; in consequence of which they were, in the course of a few years afterwards, removed, as being altogether unnecessary, and, indeed, useless fabrics.

The keys of the gates were, in ancient times, represented by three small silver keys, which were part of the insignia of the office of chief magistrate. Accordingly, at the annual election, they were delivered to the provost, who was custodier of them while in office; and the ceremony of delivering them to the provost elect, is observed at the present day.

In

---

\* Council Register, vol. xxxi. p. 610. p. lxvi. p. 216.

In the course of the few years that have elapsed of the nineteenth century, the town has undergone many important alterations and improvements. The avenues leading to it, both from the south and north, were formerly narrow and indirect; the public streets, in general, were very incommodious; and the town itself was very much confined, having no proper accommodation, for building houses for its increasing population. To remedy these inconveniences, two new streets, from the south and north, communicating with the Castle-street, were opened, in the year 1801, under the authority of an act of parliament which we have already had occasion to mention. When the act was obtained, and sufficiency of ground acquired, advertisements were published by the magistrates, desiring plans to be given in, agreeably to which buildings might be erected, in the most regular and commodious manner, in the line of these streets. Several plans were accordingly lodged, and that designed by Mr. Hamilton, architect in Glasgow, was approved of, and adopted. A spacious street was formed, from the west end of the Castlegate to the extremity of the town on that side. This street, which is seventy feet in breadth, opened up at once a considerable extent of building ground for enlarging the town. In the execution of this branch of the undertaking, many difficulties occurred, which it became necessary to obviate. Saint Katharine's hill being in the line, was speedily removed, although the work was attended with considerable expense. As it was necessary to carry the street over the Denburn, and over low ground near it, at a high elevation, a magnificent bridge,\* consisting of an arch of one hundred and thirty feet span, and forty-four in breadth, was constructed, of granite, neatly finished, and ornamented with a cornice, stone parapet, and balustrade, of highly dressed granite; the height of which, from the surface of the ground below, is fifty feet. The street, which is

3 c 2

called

---

\* The bridge, of which the key-stone of the arch was driven, 25th August, 1803, is wholly built of Aberdeen granite, and furnishes an additional proof of the excellency of this stone, and of its solidity to sustain the immense weight and pressure of an arch of such magnitude. It rises only twenty-nine feet above the spring; the stones are from three and a half to five feet deep, and the whole materials are calculated at two thousand tons. There are three blind arches, one on the west end, and other two on the east of the great arch, for raising the street to its proper height.



called UNION-STREET, passes over Putachieside and Correction-wynd, upon stone arches, under which the largest carriages, when loaded, may freely pass.

The other street, which is sixty feet wide, and is called KING-STREET, was, at the same time, opened from the north into the Castle-gate, to form a communication with the coast road, which passes by Old Aberdeen. The buildings in both streets being constructed conformably to the plan which had been adopted, have a beautiful appearance, and a great superiority over those in the older parts of the town. Union-street is substantially paved, as far as the bridge, with regular coursed granite stones, in the carriage way; and on each side, the foot pavement, ten feet broad, is of dressed granite.

In order to render the approaches to the central part of the town free and commodious, on all sides, a communication was, a few years afterwards, made, from the north, to Union-street, by St. Nicholas-street, which was also opened by the magistrates. These improvements, upon the whole, have contributed not only to the embellishment of the town, but to the health and comfort of the inhabitants, many of whom have erected handsome and spacious houses in the lines of these streets. But, however important these may have been to the town and community, the enormous expense attending the undertaking has proved fatal to the treasury of Aberdeen. By these alterations and improvements the town has, in a manner, changed its local situation, and expanded in almost every direction. It has spread considerably westward, and what was formerly garden ground and corn fields is now occupied as sites of dwelling houses. In the same manner, grounds on the north and north-west sides have been appropriated to streets, and areas for building houses, in every direction.

The length of the town, from east to west, reckoning from the barrack, on the Castlehill, to the extremity of *Union-place*, may be about 1800 yards; and, from south to north, in a straight line, from the quay to the extremity of *Love-lane*, about 1500 yards. But in these lines there are many pieces of ground, on which no houses have been erected; and, in all probability, many years will  
clapse

elapse before the population of the town requires all these grounds for dwelling houses.

Aberdeen is divided into four wards, or districts, called the *Even*, *Futtie*, *Green*, and *Crooked Quarters*, and, in former times, comprised the whole parish of *Saint Nicholas*, which is of very small extent. Of late years, the town has, by the extended improvements, embraced a considerable portion of the parish of Old Machar, by which it is surrounded on every quarter, except on the east, and part of the south side. As early as the year 1595, it having been found that the population of the town had greatly increased, it was resolved by the citizens, in a head court, to divide it into two parishes, one of which was to be formed of the *Even* and *Futtie* quarters, and the other of the *Green* and *Crooked* quarters; that there should be four churches, four sessions, and four congregations,\* with four clergymen to be appointed for parochial duty; but this plan never was carried into effect. These circumstances, however, tend to evince, that, at that time, the town was in a much more flourishing state, both with regard to population and otherwise, than at any subsequent period, previous to the union of the two kingdoms.

The buildings of the town, and of the suburbs, occupy a very small portion of the royalty of the borough, which extends nearly seven miles, in a north-west direction, and embraces a considerable part of the parish of Old Machar, and a portion of the adjoining parish of Newhills. The magistrates exercise their jurisdiction over the whole royalty, as well as over the town; the properties within the boundaries of the former holding either burgage, or of the magistrates and council, as immediate superiors of the lands and property comprehended within them. These boundaries will be best explained by an instrument of perambulation of the marches, which are occasionally visited by the magistrates, and some of the younger burgesses, as recorded in the council register.†

The

---

\* Council Register, vol. xxxvi. p. 380. 611.

† Extract of the instrument, taken, on the 6th of August, 1698, at riding the marches of the freedom lands belonging to the borough of Aberdeen, comprehending, within its circuit, the lands

The population of the town, and that of the royalty, are two distinct objects of consideration. Within the latter, it may be supposed

---

of Rubieslaw and Cruives, the forest of Stocket, and all the other freedom lands annexed to the borough.

“ The magistrates and councill, accompanied by certain of the bretheren of guild, and deacons of the craftsmen of airt, skillful and expert in the town’s utter merchies, conform as they have been used to be ridden yearly, past memory of man, being met at the Woman-hill, past, and perambulate the utter merchies and borders of the common lands of Aberdeen, and freedom thereof, distinguishing the same from the out-lands, Lord’s-lands, lying marched contigue together; and first began and took up their first march, as the samen was wont to be taken up of old, at an march-stone on the south side of the Justice Mylne burn, forment the nook of Coble’s Croft, contigue to the east side of the King’s gate, called the Wain Gate, on the south side of the new bridge, where there is ane great stone, marked with an sauser, at the north-west nook of the houses lately built by Ferriehill; and therefrae, ryding in the Hardgate, to the house, called the Halfpennie house, where there is an march-stone, with an sauser, at the north-west side of the said house, on the brink of the burne; and therefrae, north-west, to the houses at Cowperstown, where there is an sausered stone, two ells, or thereby, from the south-east gavel of the westmost house; and therefrae, south, a pair of butts, where there is a stone with a sauser, in an dyke belonging to the lands of Pitmuckstown; and therefrae, south-west, or thereby, to Collielaw, where there is ane great stone on the east syde of several other stones; and therefrae, south south-west, or thereby, to an great craige stone, wherein there is an sauser and four witter holls, and ane carne beside the same, above the lands of Ruthrestown; and therefrae wast, or thereby, to Leslie’s fourd, where there is a ston, on the east side of the fourd, marked with ane P for propertie, where there is a carne; and past to the Cult gate, quhair, at the east end of the falds of Pitfoddells, there is an ston with a sauser, and therefrae, keepand the said gate wast, or thereby, quhair there is an other eard-fast ston with an carne, and keepand in the said gate quhair there is an march-stone anent Banchrie, with an sauser; and keeping in the said gate, where there is ane great long eard-fast stone, with an sauser, anent Ardo, and frae that to the dam of Cults, otherways called the Mill-dam of Pitfoddells, where there is ane merch stone, with an sauser and four witter holls; and therefrae to the north nook of the back hill of Cults, where there is ane great stone, with four witter holes, and an sauser; and therefrae, to the head of the falds of Cults, where there is ane high march stone, with an sauser on the top thereof; and therefrae, south-west, to ane great ston beside Bells Wells, with three holes on the syde, and an sauser on the tope; and therefrae, keepan the Nether Wellheads south-west, or thereby, to ane great stone beneath Craigiebog, in the east syde of the eastmost Grindlay Burne, marked with an sauser; and on the west syde of the said Grindly Burn ane other stone, with an sauser; and therefrae, keepand west to the den of Murthell, quhair there is ane uther sausered stone, with an carne, on the edge of the road; and therefrae to an march stone, at the head of the den of Murthell, on the south-west side of the myre betwixt the lands of Murthell and Westfield; and from that wast towards the Wedder Craig, quhair there is an other merch ston upon an knowhead, with an carne; and straight to the Wedder Craig, quhair is an other ston upon an other knowhead, marked with an sauser; and from that to the Wedder Craigs, quhair there is ane great eard-fast ston, marked with an sauser; and therefrae, north-west, to ane march stone at Brunie’s grave, marked with an sauser; and frae that, north-wast, or thereby, where there is an great craig, with an sauser on the Brunthill; and therefrae descending down the said Brunthill, north, or thereby, to ane sink at the south side of



posed to be about 32,000. The population of the parish of Saint Nicholas, which is now wholly occupied by the town, was in the year 1755,

---

the Reisk to the Rottenford, betwixt Brotherfield and the Lasts, and frae that to the Ringing Stone, and from that, keeping the burn to Brediach Foord, betwixt the lands of Kinmundie and Kingswalls; and therefrae, keepand the burne to ane stonie foud, betwixt the lands of Kinmundie, belonging to Craigmyll, and Tulloch, belonging to Crabston; and from that, keeping the burne, where there is an march stone in the east syde of the burne, marked with an sauser, forgainst the room of Tulloch; and from that to the Blackburn, where there is an march stone at the Inver, betwixt the Blackburn and the Blindburn, marked with an sauser, forgainst ane Mother Swail on the south side of the said Blackburne, and against the said Inver; and ascending or holding up the said Blinburn, north-east, or thereby, still keeping the sink, and the said Blindburn, at the south side of Elrickhill, while it come to the head of the said Blindburn, where there is ane little moss, with an cairne in the midst thereof; and holding through the midst of the said little moss to the head of the Gartlet burn; and from that, descending down the said burn, till it come to the foord at the Chapman rode, where there is ane stone marked with an sauser, where the said rode crosses the foord, and an cairne beside the same; and holding up the said Chapman rode, where there is ane march stone, marked with an sauser at the syde of the croft, called the Greenwall tree; and therefrae, keeping the said rode to ane march stone, marked with an sauser, in an myre at the north syde of the hill of Brimond, in the south syde of the rode, with an carne; and therefrae, keeping the said Chapman road till it come to ane great march stone, marked with ane P, for propertie, and ane sauser, at the wast head of the croft of Ashehillocks, and keeping in the said Chapman-rode till the Gouff burn; and from that, keeping in the said rode, to an eard-fast stone, on the south syde of the rode, marked with an sauser; and from that till another stone, with ane sauser, on the south syde of the said rode; and therefrae, to another march stone, marked with a sauser; all of them at the head of the folds belonging to Crabston; and from that to the brow of the hill, betwixt Selettie and Crabston, where there is ane great stone, with an sauser and ane cairn; and therefrae keeping the said rode to another stone, marked with an sauser and a carne, betwixt the said lands, in the north side of ane little moss; and therefrae to another march stone, on the east side of the moss, in the east side of an corn ridge belonging to Nether Newhills; and keeping the said rode, to the north nook of the croft of Wagley, where there is an eard-fast stone, with an sauser and an carne; and from that, holding through the said croft of Wagley, to an great sausered stone on the bank of Bucksburn, on the wast side of the said burn, above the old damme and foord of the samen; and therefrae, crossand the said burn, and keepand an dyke eastward to the old dykes of Auchmill, while it come to ane march stone lyand on the north syde of the said gate, and keeping the said gate, to an march stone on the east side of the said burn, called North field; and therefrae, holding down the said burn to the water of Done, and holding down the said water of Done till it come to the old found of the Dirra-dyke; and from that, keeping the said dyke till ye come to the Craighhead, where there is an stone marked with an sauser; and therefrae keeping the said dyke till it comes to the teilled land of Caperstown; and therefrae to an eard-fast stone, on the high gate, with an sauser; and therefrae to the place where it was thought the kill of Caperstown stood; and turning on again to the laigh, and holding down the said laigh, east, or south-east, or thereby, betwixt Coleston's dyke and the lands of Caperstown, to the foud above Peterstown, called the King's foud; and keeping the said gate, to ane march stone in the den, called Ketty-brouster, marked with an sauser and ane key; and therefrae, keeping the north-east side of the gate, ston by ston as

1755, according to Dr. Webster's account, found to be only 10,488. By the parliamentary enumeration, in the year 1801, it was found to be 13,057. Since that period, it must have considerably increased; for, in the year 1811, when the last enumeration was made, under the authority of parliament, it amounted to 21,639, in the four several districts of the town.\* To this there ought to be added the population of that part of it which is locally situated within the parish of Old Machar, and supposed to be 3570. So that, upon the whole, the population of the town of Aberdeen may be estimated at 25,209, in the year 1811. The number, however, has, of late years, still increased, owing principally to the rapid progress of manufactures, and to public undertakings. At the present time, the whole population cannot be less than 28,000.

The elevated situation of Aberdeen, at a distance from any stagnant water, and exposed to the sea breeze, renders it, in general, a very healthy place. It is only a short mile distant from the sea beach, which is a flat sand, extending from the harbour for many miles northward. The inhabitants were formerly very much crowded together, in the older parts of the town; but, since the commencement

---

they are marked with sausers, through the croft of Pickeltillin, in the midst of which croft there are two march stones, markt with Sanct Peter's key, with carnes; and therefrae, to an eard-fast stone, on the north side of Spittle-hill, marked with an sauser and an key; and therefrae, keeping the cart-road to the Gallow Slacks, where there is an eard-fast stone, marked with an sauser and an key; and therefrae, down the north side of the said swell, to an strype, called the Banstickle burn, and holding down the said Banstickle burn till it enter the salt sea, and keeping in the sea syde to the blockhouse; and therefrae, up the shoar."—[*Council Register*, vol. lvii. p. 656, et seq.]

\* Extract from the Parliamentary enumeration, in the year 1811.

|                                                    | HOUSES.    |                           |           |              | OCCUPATIONS.                      |                                     |                     | PERSONS. |          |                  |
|----------------------------------------------------|------------|---------------------------|-----------|--------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|----------|----------|------------------|
|                                                    | Inhabited. | No. of Families occupying | Building. | Uninhabited. | Families employed in Agriculture. | Families in Trade and Manufactures. | All other Families. | Males.   | Females. | Total of Persons |
| The Crooked, Even, Futtie, and Green Quarters..... | 1897       | 6556                      | 20        | 48           | 81                                | 3997                                | 2478                | 8,713    | 12,926   | 21,639           |
| Chapel of Ease District....                        | 313        |                           | 10        |              |                                   |                                     |                     | 1,500    | 2,070    | 3,570            |
|                                                    | 2210       |                           | 30        |              |                                   |                                     |                     | 10,213   | 14,996   | 25,209           |

ment of the extended improvements, these inconveniences have been obviated, many additional houses have been built upon a uniform plan, even beyond what the actual population of the town necessarily required; and the inhabitants have been more commodiously and comfortably lodged than they were in former times. These improvements, upon the whole, have not only been beneficial to the public at large, but have conduced to the general salubrity of the place, while they are highly ornamental to the town itself.

In the latter end of the eighteenth century, several new streets were opened, in different directions, in various parts; and, in the lines of these streets, many houses have been built. In the present century, since Union-street and King-street have been laid out, a great number of additional streets and courts have been formed; but the buildings in the lines of these have not yet made great progress, although advancing by degrees.\*

#### OF THE SUBURBS AND ENVIRONS OF ABERDEEN.

The situation of the town, which possesses few local advantages as a place of commerce, is in a corner of the county at one time the most barren and sterile that could well be figured. The only cultivated fields in its close vicinity were a few patches of ground, known by the name of borough roods, lying chiefly on its east side, betwixt the town and the links, and some acres which had belonged to the monastic and other religious institutions. On the south side it was limited by the river Dee; on the west and north-west, by the lands of Rubislaw and Foresterhill, which remained, for many ages, in an unimproved state: and also by the lands of Gilcomston. Beyond these, nothing was to be observed, for several miles, but the Stocket, formerly a royal forest, spreading to a considerable distance, with little thickets of decayed trees, stunted brush wood, and a dreary waste, in which scarcely any thing was produced except furze, broom,

3 D

and

---

\* The following new Streets were opened, in the course of the eighteenth century:—Virginia, Tannery, North, Marischal, Belmont, Queen, James, Carmelite, George, and St. Andrew's Streets. Since the year 1800, Union, King, St. Nicholas, Frederick, Wales, Prince's, Diamond, Silver, Chapel, Skene, and Nelson Streets, Union Terrace, and Golden Square, have been made out.



and detached pieces of heath, interspersed with an accumulation of rugged stones, and abundance of bogs and spouty marshes. The greatest part of these wastes belonged to the corporation, and, for many ages, was regarded as of little intrinsic value. But all these territories have, by the exertions and industry of individuals, been, within the period of half a century, improved, and converted into valuable and productive lands.

Soon after the suppression of the insurrection in the year 1746, the magistrates and town council began to direct their attention to the improvement of these wastes; but this was an undertaking that could be accomplished only by individual exertion. The lands of Gilcomston,\* which then belonged to the treasurer, were, at that time, in the occupation of three tenants, who were in a situation which scarcely enabled them to pay very low rents, far less to undertake permanent or beneficial improvements upon their farms. These lands were parcelled into twelve small lots, and being exposed to sale by auction, for the consideration of an annual feu duty, whereof one fifth part was to be redeemed at twenty-five years' purchase, were acquired by different purchasers. No sooner had this plan been accomplished, than the feuers commenced their operations of improving and inclosing the fields. In the space of a few years, the grounds were brought into a high state of cultivation, and in the centre of them was raised a considerable village, which, of late years, has very much increased, in the number of its buildings, in every quarter.

The

---

\* These lands were purchased by the treasurer, in the year 1673, from Sir Andrew Fletcher, uncle and tutor to Mr. Menzies of Pitfoddels, then proprietor, for the sum of 26,500 merks, Scottish money, or L.1472 4s. 5d. sterling; and the price was chiefly paid out of the funds belonging to the Bridge of Dee, under the administration of the magistrates and council. In the year 1692, the property was, in consequence of an act of council, transferred by the treasurer to the office-bearer in the council who is distinguished by the name of the Master of Kirk and Bridge works. It remained under his charge until the year 1749, when, under the same authority, it was redispensed to the treasurer; at which time there were upon it only three farm houses and a mill. In the year 1753, these lands, after having been feued out, were, by another act of council, ordered to be sold to the Master of Kirk and Bridge works, for behoof of the Bridge of Dee fund, at the rate of forty years purchase of the feu duties, for the purpose of enabling the treasurer to extinguish a part of the public debt of the town.—[*Council Register*, vol. lv. p. 554. et seq. vol. lvii. p. 295. vol. lxi. p. 384.]

The benefits that resulted, not only to the community, but to the individuals who had embarked in these undertakings, induced the magistrates soon afterwards to feu off, in the same manner, the common and barren wastes, which we have already had occasion to notice. In a few years, by the indefatigable exertions and industry of the feuers, the grounds were cleared of all obstructions, improved, inclosed at an immense expense, and converted into corn fields, villas, and gardens. The ground was first cleared of the accumulation of stones, then drained and trenched, and, in the progress of thirty or forty years, upwards of fifteen hundred acres, which, in their original state, were not worth, on an average, half a crown the acre, were, by these means, rendered equal to L.4 or L.5 of yearly rent. The fields were soon in a condition to produce luxuriant crops of grain, green crops, and vegetables for the table; and what was formerly a dreary waste is now the summer retreat of the industrious citizens, surrounded by beautiful plantations.

#### OF GILCOMSTON.

This village may now be regarded as a part of the suburbs of Aberdeen. Although the ground on which it is built possessed many local advantages favourable for the situation of a town, having a fine sloping exposure to the south-east, with a small stream of water running through it, yet no plan whatever was adopted, either for laying out regular streets, or for building the houses upon any uniform design. The consequence of neglect in this respect has been, that the buildings, in general, are mean, and very irregular, many of them being occupied by labourers, and the lower class of the people. The population,\* however, rapidly increased, and, therefore, it became necessary to erect a place of worship for the accommodation of the inhabitants. Accordingly, about the year 1770, a chapel of ease, under the established church, was raised, and the expense defrayed by voluntary contribution. To induce people to subscribe, it was declared, that every one who gave a certain sum

3 D 2

should

---

\* The population of Gilcomston, in 1818, is conjectured to be upwards of fifteen hundred.

should have a right to vote in the election of a minister. This church, which was the first institution of the kind at Aberdeen, is a plain building, with a small belfry, and capable of accommodating upwards of a thousand hearers. Mr. James Gregory, now minister of Banchory Ternan, had, for many years, the pastoral charge of the congregation, and was succeeded, about fifteen years ago, by Mr. James Kidd, the present incumbent, who is also professor of oriental languages in Marischal college. The annual salary is about L.200; and the chapel is situated in the parish of Old Machar.

#### OF THE DISTILLERY AND BREWERY.

About the year 1750, a stock company commenced the distillation of spirits from grain at the mill of Gilcomston, where they erected extensive works; but the undertaking appears not to have been attended with encouragement, although the price of the spirits was so low as 1s. 8d. the Scottish pint, and was, therefore, soon relinquished. About twenty years afterwards, the works were converted into a public brewery, which was conducted under the name of Messrs. William Black & Co. This branch of business was more successful than the former. The company brewed table beer, strong ale, and porter, of the best quality, for many years, both for home consumpt and for exportation; but they have recently discontinued the prosecution of the business.

On the west precincts of the town, near this place, is situated

#### THE WELL OF SPAW.

The spring rises at the foot of the slope of the Woolmanhill, where the infirmary and its garden are situated. The water flows abundantly, is impregnated with iron ore and vitriol, and has been long celebrated for its medicinal qualities in nephritic disorders, or in obstructions. About the year 1615, the spring, over which a building, ornamented with the portraits of six of the apostles, had stood during many years, attracted the attention of Dr. William Barclay, at that time an eminent physician. He analysed the water, and, having discovered its qualities and virtues, published a treatise upon it, under the title of "Callirhoe, commonly called the



the well of Spa, or the nymph of Aberdene.”\* The building having fallen to decay, was afterwards repaired by George Jameson, the celebrated painter, who appears to have been subject to a nephritic complaint. The well was in high repute among the inhabitants, on account of its medicinal virtues, and frequently resorted to for relief in disorders of that nature. About the middle of the seventeenth century, an extraordinary overflowing of the Denburn, which runs near it, demolished the building, and buried the spring among the rubbish of the hill. In this situation the well remained till the year 1670, when the spring having again made its appearance, the present structure† was erected over it by Alexander Skene of Newtyle, one of the baillies, who had experienced considerable relief from drinking the water. About the year 1751, the spring disappeared for some time, but, by the exertions of Dr. James Gordon of Pitlurg, it was recovered, and has ever since continued to flow, without interruption. Its salutary virtues are still known to many individuals, who resort to it for relief in various disorders. In the summer months it is much frequented by the citizens, particularly in the mornings.

#### THE TURNPIKE ROADS

Which centre at Aberdeen, are 1st. The great north road from Stonehaven, being about sixteen miles in length. 2d. The road on the north side of the river Dee, passing to Charlestown of Aboyne, which is distant from Aberdeen about thirty one miles. 3d. The road

---

\* “Now I proceed to shew the qualities of this water ; for trial of which you shall take a little nutgal, bruise it in pieces, and throw it into a drinking glass, full of this water, and if it be the true water, it will become red, like claret wine ; notwithstanding that a nutgal maketh all other liquor black, were it never so redde of itself ; neither is there any moysture in the world, except it be endued with this vitriolical vertue, that can draw a scarlet colour out of a nutgal. Beside this essay, there is another, which consisteth in distilling of this water ; for, in the bottome of the Alembicke, there will remaine a matter unsavourie, sometime red, and sometime black.”—[*Dr. Barclay's Treac-tise, republished in Aberdeen in 1674.*]

† On the front of the building there are cut, in stone, a thistle, rose, and lilly, with a diadem and rising sun, having under them the following inscription :—

“*As Heaven gives me—So give I thee.*”

“*Hoc fonte privata salū in patriam populumq. fluat spada rediviva.*—1670.”

road from Skene, which, after being carried in a direction nearly due west from the town for seven miles, divides into two branches; one of these is nineteen miles in length, and passes through the lands of Echt and Midmar, in a direction nearly in the middle between the rivers Dee and Don, until it reach Drumlasie, in the north part of the parish of Kincardine O'Neil; the other, which is twenty miles in length, is carried on in a line nearly westerly, to the church of Alford. This turnpike, and its two branches, extends to forty seven miles. 4th. The great road from Aberdeen to the north-west, at four miles from the town diverges into two branches; one of these passes through Kintore, Inverury, and Huntly, to the confines of Banffshire; the other passes through Old Meldrum and Turriff, in a direction almost due north to the town of Banff. The whole length of turnpike, of both roads, is eighty miles. 5th. The road from Aberdeen to Buchan extends to Ellon seventeen miles, thence to Birnes other five miles. At that place, it separates into two branches, one of which is carried to Frasersburgh, and the other to Peterhead. This road, and its two branches, extend in length to seventy five miles.

#### OF THE HARBOUR OF ABERDEEN.

For many ages, the harbour remained as an open basin, with a low island in the middle, called the Inches,\* which separated the channel of the river from what was properly called the harbour, on the north side. This basin spread from the sloping ground on the south

---

\* The Inches are evidently the accumulation of alluvious matter, which, being brought down by land floods, has, by the contrariety of the action of the sea and tides, been deposited there in the course of many ages. Indeed, the whole Sandilands, Links, and Futtie, have originated from the same cause. The workmen, when digging the Canal, at some considerable distance from the harbour, found embodied in the bowels of the earth, anchors, and other articles, which, to all appearance, must have been the remains of shipwreck at some former period. Lately, in the course of dredging preparatory to the intended works upon the Inches, at thirteen feet under low water of stream tide, and twenty eight feet under the general surface of the Inches, there were found two human skulls, with a large piece of flint; and, at the same level, great quantities of shells, and other marine depositions.

south side of the Castlegate to the lands of Torrie,\* on the south. In ancient times, the only piece of artificial work in the harbour was distinguished by the name of the quayhead, being that part of the old pier which is in front of the Weigh-house, and the approach to it was from the street now known by the name of the Shipraw. In the year 1484, that work having become ruinous, was ordered to be repaired, under the authority of an act of council, and the expense was defrayed by the fines imposed on *forestallors* and *regraters*. About the year 1527, the quayhead appears to have undergone considerable repairs, and to have been partly rebuilt; but such was the difficulty of procuring materials fit for the purpose, that David Anderson, master of the pier work, was dispatched to Dundee, to purchase stones proper for the building. In the year 1543, the magistrates and town council, with the approbation of the community, imposed a tax of eight pence, Scottish money, upon the ton of all goods imported and exported, for the purpose of raising a fund for the support of the works of the harbour. Some years afterwards, certain regulations were established for the protection of shipping, and for preventing ballast of vessels from being thrown into the harbour, or flood-mark, under a penalty; and vessels were directed to be moored in the *gan-pool* only. In the year 1471, the council and community imposed the following rates and duties, to be levied, not only from the merchants of the town, but from strangers, for the support of those works, viz. for each chalder of victual on board of any ship or boat in the harbour, 2s. 8d.; and for every last of salmon, and of other goods, 4s. Scottish money. These duties were afterwards sanctioned by a grant

---

\* On the south side of the harbour, near the efflux of the river Dee, stands the small village of 'Torrie, which is now occupied only by a few families of white fishers, and the greatest part of it belongs to the town of Aberdeen. It was erected into a borough of barony by King James IV. about the year 1495, for the accommodation of travellers who had occasion to pass by the ferry at this place on their way southward, particularly of pilgrims in their progress to the Abbey of Arbroath, to which the town and the whole adjacent lands then belonged. The Abbot had a seat and other accommodations near the church of Nigg, which is about a mile distant.† There are two passage boats at the ferry of this part of the river, employed in transporting passengers across the river. One of these belongs to the town of Aberdeen, and the other to John Menzies, Esq. of Pitfodells, proprietor of the west half of the barony of Torrie.

† M.S. Advocate's Library.



grant from the crown, and an act of the convention of the royal boroughs, and fixed at 3s. for every ton of goods, and 3s. on each chaldron of victual. In the year 1582, David Endeacht having been permitted to construct a crane on the quay for the convenience of shipping, was authorised, by the council, to levy 1s. 6d. for each ton of goods, in name of craneage duties. At that time, such was the rage for securing, in perpetuity, every branch of property or casual revenue belonging to the town, that Mr. Endeacht speedily obtained a feu grant of the craneage duties to himself, his heirs, and assignees, for ever, for a consideration of four merks, to be paid by him, yearly, to the shoremaster; but this grant was afterwards redeemed by the council.

By the accumulation of the duties which had been collected in the course of years, the council were enabled, in the year 1607, to commence the erection of a bulwark or pier on the south side of the entry to the harbour. This was considered, at the time, to be an essential improvement, of which the citizens were so fully convinced, that they assembled in a head court, and voluntarily tendered the services of themselves or their servants, for assisting in carrying on the work. In the year 1611, the council obtained from King James a grant of an impost of L.4 on every ton of wine vended or consumed within the town, for defraying the expense of this work. At that time the entry to the harbour was much obstructed by a stone called "*Knock Maitland*," which was, in the year 1618,\* removed, by the mechanical exertions of David Anderson of Finzeach, as has already been mentioned in the course of the narrative.

About the year 1623, the magistrates first projected the extension of the pier from the quayhead towards the village of Futtie. This arduous undertaking was commenced with great spirit, and the citizens, with their usual zeal, agreed to assist in accelerating the work, by filling up the pier with earth, and other materials. The burgesses, besides, voluntarily assessed themselves in L.1000, for defraying

---

\* At this time there was scarcely two feet of water on the bar, at low tide; at spring tides, fifteen feet; and at neep tides, from nine to ten feet.—[*Philopoliteus*, p. 214.]

fraying the expense; and the corporations, although they declined to concur in this assessment, agreed to contribute among themselves, voluntarily, for the same purpose. This work appears to have been languid in its progress, probably owing to the disorders in the nation, which continued for many subsequent years. In the year 1658, the work being almost completed, a sluice was ordered to be made for conducting the water from the higher parts of the town, through the pier, into the tideway.

By these operations, there was cut off from the basin a considerable area of ground, which was afterwards distinguished by the name of the shorelands; it is now occupied by several streets, and many dwelling houses, and forms a considerable portion of the town. In the course of the year 1686, several improvements were made upon the entry of the harbour, by removing many loose stones, and other obstructions, which had accumulated on the bar. The south bulwark afterwards underwent some repairs, and a timber head was constructed upon the east end of it, as a protection from the sea, with a kempstock, for the use of ships taking the harbour. These operations were attended with great expense to the community, and all the assistance that they procured from the public was a grant of L.2000, Scottish money, from the convention of royal boroughs, in the year 1700. A voluntary subscription was, about the same time, attempted among their friends in Holland, in aid of the expense of those works, and L.970 6s. 8d. Scottish money, was subscribed for;\* but, although the favour was gratefully acknowledged by the magistrates, who conferred upon the subscribers the freedom of the town, no part of the money was ever paid.

For many years, the harbour seems to have been neglected, and its entry was a source of continued distress to the inhabitants, who, from time to time, were obliged to assist, when called upon, in remov-

3 E

ing

---

\* Council Register, vol. vi. p. 883. vol. viii. p. 1183. vol. xii. p. 108. vol. xviii. p. 154. vol. xx. p. 298. vol. xxiv. p. 172. vol. xxvii. p. 595. vol. xxx. p. 645. 706. vol. xxxvi. p. 596. vol. xliii. p. 390. vol. xlv. p. 169. 377. 855. vol. xlviii. p. 469. vol. li. p. 76. 191. 268. 542. vol. lii. p. 103. vol. liii. p. 155. 551. 828. vol. liv. p. 7. 537.

ing the obstructions upon the bar, and within the harbour. But this was only a temporary expedient, for the same obstructions occurred almost every other year, unless some extraordinary land flood happened to sweep them away.

In the year 1755, the magistrates first applied to Mr. John Smeaton, who was, at this time, distinguished as an eminent engineer, for his advice and instructions with regard to ameliorating the condition of the harbour. It does not, however, appear, that he had made any survey of it, or gave any directions as to its works; but, about that time, the Pocra pier was erected, in consequence of an act of council, and was long known by the name of the new pier.\*

About the year 1770, the most essential and important parts of the modern improvements of the harbour were projected by Mr. Smeaton. In the detailed report† of his survey, he advised the erection,

---

\* Near this part of the harbour are situated the ancient blockhouse, now dismantled of its artillery, and converted to a store-house of one of the Greenland companies, and the battery, which was built, some years ago, for a protection to the harbour from the enemy during war. This fort was afterwards dismantled of its guns, in consequence of an order from government, and is now allowed to fall to decay.

† As Mr. Smeaton's report points out, in a very distinct and scientific manner, the causes of the obstructions on the bar in former times, we take leave to present, in this note, that part of it which has reference to those obstructions.

“ The cause of the annoyance of the harbour's mouth appears to me to be this:—The whole coast, which stretches away northerly, is apparently, for miles, a flat and sandy shore; and, I suppose, from the harbour of Aberdeen, till it meets with the point of Buchanness, (which is at the distance of seven leagues,) continues of the same kind; consequently the wind at N.E. acting obliquely upon it, brings the sand, and gravel therewith intermixed, coastwise, toward the south: and as the coast from the south side of the entry of this harbour stretches away nearly east for about three fourths of a mile, those sands would naturally be deposited in the angle of the coast formed at the harbour's mouth, did not the necessity of the land waters of the river Dee, in finding a passage to sea, force themselves a vent; and which they maintain more or less clear, according as the circumstance of winds, tides, and freshes balance one against another. An hard gale of wind at N.E. as already mentioned, gradually brings the sands and gravel coastwise southward, and puts in agitation that already lodged in the bank on the north side of the harbour's mouth, at the same time forcing it into the entry; and if at that time it happens to be spring tides, and little fresh water in the river, a strong tide of flood being the consequence, greatly co-operates with the wind and seas in carrying a great quantity of sand and gravel into the channel of the river; and the fresh water in the river being supposed then very short, the reflux will be very languid, and, being counteracted



erection, on the north side of the entry, of a stone pier, which, while it confined the stream of the river within narrow bounds, would tend to remove the sand bank which had accumulated there, and be the means of preventing the sand and gravel from being driven in, and forming a bar in the mouth of the harbour. As Mr. Smeaton's plan met with general approbation, an act of parliament was obtained, in the year 1773, authorising the magistrates and council to execute the works which had been so projected, and imposing certain additional duties upon shipping, and upon exports and imports, for the purpose of defraying the expense attending the execution of these works. On Monday the 5th of June, 1775, the foundation stone of the north pier was laid at the Sandness, with masonic solemnities, in presence of the magistrates, amidst a numerous concourse of spectators assembled on the occasion. The work was conducted with great spirit,

3 E 2

and.

---

by the impetus of the sea, it cannot return; and a continuance of weather and circumstances of this kind will put the mouth of the harbour into the worst state, in which it must necessarily remain till, by a contrary disposition of circumstances, a contrary effect is produced. On the other hand, a continuance of great land floods, either at spring or neap tides, accompanied either with off-shore winds, or moderate ones at N.E. gives the greatest advantage in scouring out the sands and gravel from about the harbour's mouth, carrying it out into the road, from whence, by degrees, it gets round the point of Girdleness; and if towards the close of the work there happens, along with a strong land fresh, low spring ebbs, which gives the current the greatest fall to sea, and, at the same time, runs bare over the bar, with a moderate wind at N.E. which will give the sand some agitation, without much impetus, under these circumstances the stony body of the bar will be run clear of the sand, and the harbour's mouth will be put into its best state, and so will remain till the contrary causes produce, as before, the contrary effects; and in this state of fluctuation must the entry of the harbour of Aberdeen ever remain, till something is done to counteract the effects of that arrangement of circumstances whose natural tendency is to do harm.

“The only means by which I can see this is likely to be effected, is by the erection of a north pier, which will directly tend to the cure of the evil complained of; for it will not only keep the land freshes more confined in a body, till they come into deeper water, but, what is of more consequence, it will, in a great measure, prevent the sand and gravel from being driven in. It will not, indeed, stop the continual driving of the matter, coastwise, from the north; but, after the back or outside of the pier is filled up with sand, &c. to a certain degree, it will then go round the pier-head, and, by the superior action of middling freshes and spring ebbs, will be kept in deeper water, and so get round the point of Girdleness, without first getting into the harbour's mouth, or, at least, not to that degree as to obstruct the navigation in and out. By these means, the bar will not only be kept clear down to the stone bed, but, by lifting the larger sort of stones by art, the remaining gravel will wash out into deeper water, so as to make (as it may reasonably be expected) full two feet more water than there is now, in its best state.”

and, in the course of six years, this important undertaking was accomplished, at an expense of about L.18,000 sterling. This lasting monument of Mr. Smeaton's genius as an engineer extends about twelve hundred feet eastward, and is built in a curved form, convexing to the south. It is built wholly of granite, and many of the stones of the outside walls are upwards of three tons weight, with dressed beds, and generally four feet in length. The inside is composed of rubble, and the whole forms a solid mass of masonry, being covered with a pavement of square dressed stones. On the west end it is only twenty feet broad at the base, twelve at the top, and sixteen feet high from the foundation, exclusive of the parapet; but in its progress eastward it gradually increases, till its dimensions are thirty six feet at the base, twenty four feet at the top, and thirty feet in height. It was finished with a round head, of sixty feet diameter at the base. The beneficial consequences resulting from this improvement soon became apparent. The sand bank gave way to the current of the river, and was swept off; and, as Mr. Smeaton had predicted in his report, the sand and gravel, which had formerly been driven into the mouth of the harbour, now accumulated at the back or outside of the pier, and raised the sea beach very considerably, so much so, that what was at that time overflowed by ordinary tides is now dry land at stream tides. By those means, the obstructions of the bar were greatly diminished, and an additional depth of water obtained. But, by the officious interference of some ignorant people, Mr. Smeaton's plan and instructions were not rigidly adhered to. By their advice, the pier was founded too much to the north, and did not sufficiently narrow the channel; the consequence of this was, that, in the interior of the harbour, a considerable swell was occasioned, at high water, by the influx of the sea, which annoyed the shipping. To obviate this inconvenience, a stone jettee, or break-water, projecting from the west end of the pier towards the channel of the river, was, by Mr. Smeaton's directions, soon afterwards erected, and this structure completely answered the intended purpose.

After these important improvements had been accomplished, the shipping of the port gradually increased, both in number and in the amount

amount of tonnage, and, of course, created an extension of the commerce and manufactures of Aberdeen.

In the year 1810, improvements in the interior of the harbour, upon an extensive scale, were projected by Mr. Telford, civil engineer, who had recently made a plan and survey of it, under the authority of the council. The object of that plan was to form a great part of the harbour into a wet dock, where vessels of every description might lie with safety; to construct graving docks, for the accommodation of shipping; and to extend the north pier farther eastward, according to Mr. Smeaton's original design, so as to obtain, by these means, an additional depth of water on the bar. As this project met with the approbation of the council, and of many of the citizens, an act of parliament was obtained, in the month of May of that year, authorising the magistrates and council, as trustees of the harbour, to carry into execution those improvements, according to the plan which had been designed by Mr. Telford; and, for enabling them to accomplish this undertaking, certain additional duties were imposed upon shipping, and upon exports and imports.\* They were also "authorised and empowered, from time to time, to borrow and take up at interest any sum or sums of money, which, with those previously borrowed, and then due, upon the harbour, on the credit of former acts, should not, in the whole, exceed together, at any time, the sum of L.140,000 sterling; and to grant, assign, and set over, for securing the payment of the same, with the interest thereof respectively, the several rates, duties, and tonnage, given and granted by this last act, to any person or persons, who shall be willing to advance and lend the money thereon." In consequence of this act, which was declared to continue in force for the period of twenty one years, the trustees commenced their operations on the harbour with great spirit, and, in the course of the five subsequent years, the north pier, which had been originally projected by Mr. Smeaton, was extended nine hundred feet  
further

---

\* The rate of duty on all goods and merchandize, loaded or unloaded, is fixed at three-pence for every barrel bulk; but, on such commodities as are not charged by the barrel bulk, the rate chargeable is regulated by a table annexed to the acts. Strangers and others, who are not burgesses of guild, or members of the incorporated artificers, pay one third more.



further eastward, the whole length of that work being now upwards of two thousand feet. On the opposite side of the entrance, a breakwater, composed of rubble stone, has been built, for the purpose of protecting the harbour from the violence of a south-east storm. This branch of work, which is about eight hundred feet long, projects from the land northward, almost across the mouth of the harbour, and its salutary effects have become obvious.

In the interior of the harbour, a new wharf, upwards of nine hundred feet in length, running along the south side of Futtie, has been completed, for the accommodation of shipping, and that wharf is so constructed as to serve for part of the general design of converting the harbour into a wet dock. Two buildings for capstans have been raised near the efflux of the river, between which it was intended to divert the stream, that it might pass, in a direct course, into the sea, without interruption to the shipping. Considerable operations have been made upon the inches, preparatory to constructing the projected graving docks, and the interior of the harbour has been deepened, and many obstructions removed, by means of a powerful dredging machine, which is still in constant employment. In the execution of these extensive works, and in the purchase of considerable property in Futtie, for account of the harbour, a debt of upwards of L.127,000 sterling has been contracted, although the grand and primary objects of the design, being the tide lock, basin, and graving dock, have not been accomplished. These circumstances we have already had occasion to notice, in the course of the narrative.

That all those works, which have been so far completed, are permanent improvements, of real utility, and afford additional accommodation to the great number of vessels belonging and resorting to the port, perhaps, will not be controverted. At the same time, it must be allowed, that a contrariety of sentiment still prevails among many intelligent men on the subject of these improvements; but to enter upon topics of that kind would be inconsistent with the nature of this work. The plan which was adopted by the magistrates and council for conducting the operations had received the sanction of two eminent engineers, and met with the approbation of many of  
their

their fellow citizens. They commenced the works with great zeal and spirit, and the chief magistrate at the time was particularly assiduous in procuring the act of parliament, for which he received publicly the thanks of the citizens; and his personal exertions in accelerating the execution of the works, for several years, are not yet quite in oblivion. The funds belonging to this branch of public improvements are directed, by the act, to be kept separate and distinct from the other transactions of the corporation. The accounts are ordered to be compared with the vouchers annually, and audited by a committee, consisting of the sheriff depute of the county, and others named in the statute. They are authorised to attend to the application of the money, and to challenge any article of expenditure that may be deemed objectionable; and such article shall not, afterwards, be brought forward in those accounts.

We may be permitted here to observe, that, however much the undertaking may have fallen short of the expectations of the public, and the expense of those works exceeded what was originally estimated, yet these circumstances ought not, in justice, to be attributed either to inattention or mismanagement on the part of the administrators, but to the magnitude of the undertaking, and to the innumerable difficulties\* which they had to encounter in the course of executing the various works designed by the plan. It may also be remarked, that all these works were conducted under the superintendence and immediate direction of the resident engineer, Mr. John Gibb, who not only bestowed every attention on their execution, according

---

\* The addition to the pier is founded upon rubble, thrown promiscuously into the sea, some parts of it being ten feet under low water, and extending many yards on each side. The courses of the superstructure are not laid horizontally, but diagonally, of most substantial materials, properly jointed and bedded.

In January, 1816, after the pier had been built to its extremity, and nearly completed, a violent storm undermined the foundation, and demolished the round head erected upon it. In the course of the subsequent season, it was rebuilt upon a different construction, sloping towards the east, and finished in a very substantial manner, as far as could be observed from its outward appearance; but, on the 9th of April, 1818, another violent storm from the south east made a serious breach in the south side of the extremity of the pier, by undermining the foundation, and demolishing a considerable portion of the superstructure.

cording to Mr. Telford's plan and instructions, but accelerated the work by every mean in his power.

Although, as already observed, a heavy debt has been contracted by the trustees in the course of this undertaking, yet a considerable portion of the money has been applied to the purchase of property in Futtie, renting at present about L.1000 sterling yearly. The revenue of the harbour, taking it upon an average of three years preceding Martinmas 1817, is L.6918 1s. 5d. sterling, besides the rents of property, and that revenue is in a progressive state of improvement. In 1810, these dues were let for L.6310 of yearly rent.

#### OF THE ABERDEENSHIRE CANAL.

The importance of inland conveyance to the prosperity of a country is universally acknowledged, and the advantage of canal navigation has long been experienced, both in England, and in the south of Scotland. The great success which attended undertakings of this kind induced several public spirited gentlemen, connected with the town and the county of Aberdeen, to project a navigable canal from the harbour into the interior of the country, as far as the river Don, near Inverury. In the year 1795, a fund having been raised by subscription, in shares of L.50 each, an act of parliament was obtained, constituting the subscribers into a company, by the name of "The Company of Proprietors of the Aberdeenshire Canal Navigation." By that act, they were authorised to conduct the undertaking, under certain rules and conditions, and according to a plan which had been previously designed; and to levy certain tolls and duties upon all goods and commodities transported upon the canal, as a consideration for the expense which would necessarily attend its execution. In the course of conducting this undertaking, the company experienced many difficulties, arising chiefly from their limited funds, which, at first, were by no means adequate to the expense of a work of such magnitude; and they were obliged to apply to parliament, in the year 1801, for another act to enable them to raise additional funds for carrying on the work, in which considerable progress had been made. But, although they procured, under this last act, a considerable sum, yet it fell short of the expense requisite for  
completing



completing the undertaking, or of rendering the canal navigable. They were, therefore, necessitated to borrow money for those purposes, and again to apply to parliament for a supplemental act, for enabling them to raise additional funds. These unavoidable circumstances, and the insufficiency of many of the locks, which it was found necessary to rebuild, occasioned considerable delay, and prevented the canal from being opened for navigation till the year 1807. For several years afterwards, the traffic upon it gradually increased; but, after the late peace, the returns from it decreased, owing, chiefly, to the general stagnation of trade. Meanwhile, although it has not been productive to the proprietors, it has been found highly advantageous and of real utility to that district of the country through which it passes, by the facility which it affords for transporting lime, and other sorts of manure, as well as coals, and goods of various descriptions, at an easy rate, into the interior of the country. Indeed, the improvements that have taken place in the lands adjacent to the line, and even beyond the point of its termination, since the canal was opened, fully manifest its beneficial effects.

The extent of the line of the canal, from the quay to the river Don, is about eighteen and one-fourth miles; and the altitude surmounted, from low water mark to the summit level at Stoneywood, distant from the harbour about five miles and an half, is one hundred and sixty eight feet. The average breadth of the surface water is twenty four feet, and its depth nearly four. The principal works constructed upon it are seventeen locks, each of which raises the navigation about ten feet, and is fifty seven feet in length, within the gates; five aqueduct bridges, over considerable streams of water; fifty six accommodation bridges; and twenty culverts, for conducting small rills and surface water, from the high grounds, under the canal. At its extremity, a small village has been raised, distinguished by the name of Port Elphinston, where there is a basin for the accommodation of the craft employed in the navigation. By the original design of the canal, it was intended to form a communication with the harbour, by means of a tide lock, so as that barges might load or unload their cargos, alongside of vessels; but the limited funds of the company, and the scanty produce of the tolls,

have hitherto prevented them from accomplishing that branch of work, although it was, at first, deemed to be the most essential part of the whole. With a view of diminishing the expense of transporting lime, coals, and other weighty articles, across the quay, to and from the barges in the basin, at this place, rail ways were constructed by the company, in the year 1816, at an expense of upwards of L.250 sterling. But, although two years have elapsed since this branch of work was completed, none of those who are engaged in the lime and coal trade have availed themselves of the advantage of these rail ways, but continue the former mode of loading the barges with lime and coal, by means of wheel barrows and labourers.

The expenditure upon the works of the canal, at and previous to the 31st of December, 1808, were—

|                                                                                                                                                                                    |          |    |    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|----|----|
| For Surveys, Plans, and Acts of Parliament .....                                                                                                                                   | L.2,154  | 10 | 4  |
| .. Law Expenses .....                                                                                                                                                              | 251      | 10 | 0  |
| .. Land and Land Rents, and Damages to Grounds .....                                                                                                                               | 2,134    | 3  | 8  |
| .. the execution of the Earthen part of the Canal, including Boats and Utensils                                                                                                    | 19,917   | 0  | 0  |
| .. constructing 17 Locks, 5 Aqueducts, and 56 accommodation Bridges, 20 Culverts, and other works of Masonry, including superintendence, management, and incidental expences ..... | 19,438   | 14 | 9  |
| <hr/>                                                                                                                                                                              |          |    |    |
| Total Expenditure at this date.....                                                                                                                                                | L.43,895 | 18 | 10 |

There are, at present, seventeen barges employed upon the canal, and two fly boats, for carrying passengers betwixt Aberdeen and Inverury. These last, which are let from year to year to a tacksman, pass and repass twice every day, during the season, from the first day of April to the first day of December. The rent, for the year 1818, payable by the tacksman, is L.275 sterling. The tonnage transported upon the canal, for 1817, and two preceding years, was as follows:—

|      | <i>Bolls of Lime.</i> | <i>Bolls of Coals.</i> | <i>Tons of Dung.</i> | <i>Tons of Slates.</i> | <i>Tons of Goods.</i> |
|------|-----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1815 | 29,279                | 4,551 $\frac{1}{2}$    | 1,088                | 375                    | 1,637                 |
| 1816 | 17,982                | 5,814 $\frac{1}{2}$    | 949                  | 294                    | 646 $\frac{1}{4}$     |
| 1817 | 22,703                | 4,958                  | 1,836                | 528                    | 844 $\frac{3}{4}$     |
|      | <hr/>                 | <hr/>                  | <hr/>                | <hr/>                  | <hr/>                 |
|      | 69,969                | 15,324                 | 3,873                | 1,197                  | 3,128                 |

The gross amount of the tolls, for goods and commodities transported upon the canal, for the year 1817, was L.859 19s. 7d.

## CHAPTER II.

*Of the public buildings in Aberdeen—the Town-house and Prison—the Cross—the Record Office—Town's Mills—Public Wells, Lamps, &c.—Bridges of Dee and Don.*

## OF THE TOWN HOUSE AND PRISON.

The earliest information which we have obtained of the prison occurs in the Chamberlain's Accounts of Scotland for the year 1358, when William de Meldrum, sheriff of the county, was allowed, in his account with the chamberlain, L.4, which he paid for wood, iron, and other materials, used in building the prison of Aberdeen. In the year 1394, King Robert III. granted to the burgesses and community a charter,\* dated 20th of October, by which he permitted them to build a tolbooth and court house, eighty feet in length, and thirty in breadth, in any part of the town except in the middle of the market place. This edifice was accordingly soon afterwards erected, on the north side of the Castlegate, on the site of the present town house. On the east end of it stood the old prison, on the top of which was a small spire. In the year 1615, this part of the fabric was demolished, and a new jail erected in its place, consisting of that part of the present old work which fronts the street. It consisted of four vaults over each other, with a platform roof, and battlement; and the expense, being 5000 merks, was defrayed from the public funds of the town. In the year 1627, a square tower was erected over this building, for the basement of the present steeple,† which, although small, is very elegant, and does great credit to the builder. It was completed, in the course of the two subsequent years, at the expense of about L.1657, Scottish money. In the year 1726, the old clock being completely decayed, a new one, the workmanship of

3 F 2

Andrew

---

\* Archives of the town.

† The weather cock, on the top of the spire, is 120 feet from the level of the street.



Andrew Dunlop of London, was provided in its place, and the expense of it, being about L.100 sterling, paid from the guild wine fund. It remained in the steeple till the year 1817, when it was replaced by a new one, constructed by Mr. Gartly of Aberdeen. In the course of the year 1704, a considerable addition was made to the prison by the erection of three cells on the north side, which are appropriated to persons confined for crimes; and the expense of this work, being upwards of L.5000, Scottish money, was defrayed from the funds of the treasury. When the mason lodge was erected, about the year 1755, two additional apartments, destined for those who are under confinement for debts, and some other accommodation, were added to the east end of the prison; and the entry, which was formerly from the east, was altered to the south, where a stair, with a double flight and a porch, was built, serving as an entry to the court room, as well as to the jail. In this part of the building, over the entry to the Lodge Walk, is a room, or repository, for preserving the valuable public archives belonging to the corporation, with the council registers downward from the year 1398, church registers, public accounts, and many papers of moment regarding the affairs of the town. This room is formed upon a stone arch, and is vaulted above. It is well adapted for the purpose, being free from dampness, and the records are deposited, with the greatest regularity, in presses of the most improved construction, disposed around the room; and, to guard against accident from fire, the door and window shutters are formed of iron.

The prison now consists of the following apartments:—One room, fronting the street, appropriated to burgesses of guild under confinement for debt, being thirteen feet six inches by eleven, and, in height to the top of the arch, eleven feet. The room backward is eleven feet three inches by eleven feet eight inches, and of the same height with the former. In the old work there is a low room, fifteen feet by eight, and eleven feet high; and, over it, another room, fifteen feet by fourteen feet eight inches. The stock room above is fifteen feet square; and the long room twenty three feet eight inches by eleven feet, having no fire place. In this room all the prisoners are permitted to walk, in the day time, unless where their misbehaviour or particular

particular circumstances prevent that indulgence from being granted. There are also two other rooms, but one of them is a dungeon, having no fire place in it, nor any light. In these wretched apartments there are generally from forty to fifty persons lodged, on an average, during the whole year ; but, at present, there are only fifteen debtors and eight delinquents under confinement, besides an indigent lunatic. There are no convicts in the jail, the whole persons of that description having lately effected their escape by breaking the prison.

Although the abridgement of personal liberty hath ever been held to be one of the most odious restrictions upon the rights of mankind, yet disorders inseparable from society render it indispensably necessary to impose restraint upon those who have offended against the laws of their country, for preventing escape from justice : and when debtors refuse to pay the just demands of their creditors, or are, perhaps, not in a situation to do so, they must submit to close confinement, which the law authorises. For many ages, such was the inattention or inhumanity of our legislators, and still more of those who were entrusted with the execution of the laws, that the preparatory act of commitment for trial was often the severest of all punishments. The feelings of humanity in this respect never were roused till loudly called forth by the benevolent *Howard*, who, by his indefatigable exertions, and by the suggestions of his wisdom, at length accomplished the amelioration and improvement of the national prisons and hospitals, which were the favourite objects of his pursuits. In almost every part of the kingdom, the old jails have been demolished, and new ones erected upon improved plans, each vieing with another in point of magnificence, and also in accommodation, as far as consistent with restraint, to the unfortunate persons for whom they are designed. Far otherwise is the state of the jail of Aberdeen. It is almost a loathsome dungeon, inconvenient, and deprived of light and proper air, having neither ventilator, water pipe, or any means by which the prisoners can be relieved from noxious vapours. There is, however, a prospect of these grievances being remedied. A new court house and jail were projected, some years ago, to be built at the expense of the town and the county, and an act of parliament obtained, authorising the execution of  
this

this undertaking, according to a plan which has been adopted. The work is commenced, and the situation of prisoners will, in a short time, be rendered much more comfortable than it has hitherto been. In the mean time, the humanity of Mr. Brown, the jailor, is exercised in attending to the cleanliness of the prison, the walls of which are frequently washed with lime and water. Some years ago, a benevolent citizen bequeathed a sum of money for providing a salary of L.50 sterling, yearly, to a chaplain, for performing, every Sunday, the necessary ordinances of religion to the prisoners, and for attending such of them as had occasion for spiritual consolation.

The prisoners are at liberty to purchase, where they please, their own provisions, which are brought to them by the jailor's servants; and admittance can be obtained to the prison three times a day, both in summer and winter. Mr. Alexander Brown is the present jailor, and his salary, which is about L.100 sterling, is paid to him by the magistrates of Aberdeen, from the public funds under their management. His jail fees from debtors are sixpence sterling each night, but those who are burghesses of guild pay one half only.

The town house has undergone many alterations and improvements since it was originally erected. In the year 1670, the present court room was fitted up, and a part of the front wall modernised; and, in 1729, an addition of thirty feet was made to the west end of the building, for the purpose of a stair-case. About the year 1750, the town hall was projected, over the court room and clerk's chamber, and the whole front wall of the edifice made uniform, and of the same height. This room was elegantly finished, according to the fashion of the time, being forty six feet eight inches long, twenty nine feet broad, and eighteen feet high in the roof, including the alcove. It has five large windows in front, and is ornamented with a chimney piece of variegated marble, executed in Holland. Over it is a fine perspective view of the town, taken from the hill of Torrie, on the south side of the river, by Mr. William Mosman, landscape painter, about the year 1756. On the back wall are an original full length picture of Queen Anne, by Sir Godfrey Kneller, and a half length



length of George I. At the upper end are full length pictures of the Earl of Findlater, and his Countess, a daughter of the Earl of Hoptoun, in their parliament robes, by Alexander. The hall is solely appropriated to the occasional meetings of the magistrates and town council; and, on public occasions, it is brilliantly illuminated by three superb cut crystal chandeliers, with double branches, and twelve crystal sconces on the side walls. In the upper part of this building, on the west end, is the town's armoury, in which are deposited about three hundred stand of muskets, a very ancient coat of mail, the standard carried by the citizens at the battle of Harlaw, of rude workmanship, and some other warlike instruments; with the axe of the machine, known by the name of the "*Maiden*," which, in times of old, was used for decapitating criminals; also the furniture of the provost's charger, when he attended, as commissioner for the town, the coronation of King Charles I. at Edinburgh. The town house, prison, and mason lodge, on the east end, combine, in one mass, a building, by no means inelegant, or deficient of symmetry.

#### OF THE CROSS OF ABERDEEN.

The cross, and the pavement formerly used as the exchange, are immediately opposite to the town house. The former is a hexagonal structure, of Grecian architecture, about eighteen feet high to the top of the balustrade. In the centre of it there rises an elegant column, about twelve feet six inches high, ornamented with a wreath of thistles around it, having a Corinthian capital, surmounted by a unicorn, bearing on its breast a shield, with a lion rampant. The entry to the building is from the north, by a door which gives access to a stair in the inside, leading to the platform, where proclamations are commonly read. The extreme breadth of each side of the fabric, from angle to angle, is ten feet; and on each of the six angles is placed a column, the centre of which is on the extremity of the side. The diameter of the building, from the outside of one column to that of the other on the opposite side, is twenty one feet. The columns are of the Ionic order, nine feet high, and their capitals executed in the ancient style. On each side of those columns are pilasters, formed by a small recess in the wall, seven inches and an half broad,

broad, and five feet high, including their impost mouldings. Over these are arches, being segments of circles, with architrave mouldings. The entablature above is formed of twelve sides, each of the angles of which rests on the top of the column, the other on the middle of the side below, and their weighty projections are supported by trusses. The architrave, frieze, and cornice, being very neat, are two feet high, and the frieze is richly ornamented with foliage, but not swelled, as is common in the Ionic order. In the frieze, over each of the columns, is the head of a dog, or other animal, projecting, for the purpose of carrying off the rain water from the top of the building. Over the cornice is placed a ballustrade, or close panneling, divided into twelve compartments, each having a handsome moulding. In the one fronting the west are placed the arms of the town of Aberdeen, finely cut in stone; and in the five following, on the south, are disposed, in their order, quarter length effigies of James I. II. III. IV. and V. kings of Scotland. In the compartments fronting the east, the royal arms of Scotland are placed; and in the five remaining ones are also disposed, in order, quarter lengths of Queen Mary, James VI. Charles I. Charles II. and James VII.; the four last sovereigns being successively kings of Great Britain. All these effigies are cut in high relief, in stone, and each has an oval wreath as a frame. The countenances of the latter sovereigns are said to bear a strong resemblance to the best pictures of them which are still preserved, and a family likeness may be traced through the whole. At all times the cross has been regarded as a very elegant structure, and an ornament to the town. The body of the building is formed of groined arches, and under these are four small cells, used by huxters frequenting the market place. It was erected by John Montgomery, mason, of Old Rain,\* in the year 1686, in place of the ancient cross, which was then demolished. For completing this piece of work, the architect received the sum of L.100 sterling, paid from the guild wine funds. At present it is very much in want of repair, particularly in the base courses.

The

---

\* Council Register, vol. lvii. p. 208.

The pavement, on the west side of the cross, was laid down about the year 1752, and long used as an exchange and place of resort of the citizens, both for transacting business, and for recreation. It is formed of square dressed granite, raised two steps above the level of the street, is eighty four feet long, and fifty seven broad. Of late years, since the institution of public reading rooms, this place is less frequented.

#### OF THE RECORD OFFICE.

This edifice is situated in the east end of the Castlegate, was raised in the year 1779, and designed as a general repository for the public records of the town and the county of Aberdeen. The magistrates and council, as well as the gentlemen of the county, impressed with a conviction of the utility of such a building, and to promote the design, voted, at different times, various sums from the public funds, towards defraying the expense of this work; but a considerable part of the money was raised by voluntary subscription. It is a plain building, devoid of ornament, and very ill constructed for a work of so much importance to the public at large: nor is it adapted to the purpose for which it was originally designed, being damp, and deprived of a proper current of air; and the interior walls have been very superficially plastered, without lath. The consequence has been, that many valuable papers, deposited in it by the sheriff clerk, are spoiled and in a perishing condition. In the ground floor are four apartments, one of which is occupied by him as a public office, and some of the other apartments as repositories for the records under his charge. The floor above is laid out as a public hall, which is occasionally used for meetings of the gentlemen of the county, of the justices of the peace, when assembled as judges in the small debt court, and also of the society of advocates, who keep their library in it.

#### OF THE TOWN'S MILLS.

There are five corn mills belonging to the treasury of Aberdeen, four of which were among the earliest branches of property possessed



sessed by the community. Two of those are situated within the town, and are known by the names of the Over and Nether mills; other two, distinguished by the name of Justice mills, stand near to the south west precincts of the town; and the fifth is situated at Buxburn, about four miles to the north west of Aberdeen. In ancient times, these mills were considerable objects of revenue to the treasury, and generally let, from time to time, on a lease of three years, in consideration of a grassum paid by the tenant, and an annual rent to the treasurer. About the year 1575, all these mills, except the last, were granted, in feu, to Gilbert Menzies of Cowlie, for a debt of six hundred merks, due to him by the community, and for an yearly feu duty of eighteen merks for the two mills within the town, and ten merks for Justice mills. These, however, were fortunately redeemed by the treasurer from Mr. Menzies, in the year 1596; but for this redemption the treasurer was obliged to pay him five thousand merks, in money, as we have already had occasion to notice in another branch of this work. Since that time they have remained the property of the treasurer, are let on a lease generally for three years, and produce yearly about L.600 or L.700 sterling of rent. In the year 1621, a new corn mill was projected by an engineer, to be constructed within the flood mark, opposite to the Shorebrae, the machinery of which was to be driven by the tide; but, although considerable sums were expended in erecting dam dykes, and in building the mill, the undertaking seems to have completely failed, and the works were allowed to fall to decay. Not many years ago, the remains of the dam dykes were to be observed at low water, but these are now wholly removed.

In the time of Alexander II. a wind mill had been constructed on an eminence on the south side of the town, and continued, for many ages, to be employed in grinding grain for the inhabitants; but, towards the close of the eighteenth century, the mill, and ground belonging to it, were sold by the treasurer, and its site is now converted to other purposes. This spot of ground was celebrated for being, in ancient times, the theatre where the citizens exhibited their dramas and plays, and exercised their pastimes and amusements, according to the custom of the age.

About

About the year 1602, a similar mill was raised upon the *Heidings* hill, or Port hill, in consequence of an act of the town council ;\* but it seems to have been used for a very short time, and to have been allowed to fall to ruins. No vestiges of the building now remain.

#### OF THE PUBLIC WELLS, &c.

No article is more essential to the comfort and convenience of the inhabitants of a large town than that of fresh water ; and no place in the kingdom has a better opportunity of being supplied with water than Aberdeen, there being abundance of springs in its neighbourhood, at the command of the incorporation. As early as the year 1632, a scheme was proposed by the magistrates for bringing water into the town, by means of leaden pipes. It received the sanction of the citizens, assembled in a head court ; and the incorporated trades voluntarily agreed to contribute one thousand merks towards the expense of the undertaking, and to bear their proportion of the money to be assessed for that purpose, along with the other inhabitants. An act of the privy council was thereupon obtained, sanctioning the assessment, but the civil commotions in the nation having soon afterwards commenced, the scheme, it would seem, had been relinquished. In the year 1682, a similar proposal was introduced to the citizens, but it did not meet with a cordial reception. They declined to submit to an assessment for the expense of carrying on the work, and the matter was allowed to drop.†

About the beginning of the eighteenth century, the inhabitants appear to have been convinced of the necessity of a supply of spring water, and of the expediency of contributing towards the expence of bringing it into the town. Accordingly, in the year 1706, they readily acceded to the plan which was proposed by the magistrates, and agreed to an assessment for that purpose. The money necessary for accomplishing this desirable object was, in the first place, to be paid from the public funds under the administra-

3 G 2

tion

---

\* Council Register, vol. xl. p. 908.

† Ibid. vol. lii. p. 71. 91. vol. lvii. p. 63.

tion of the council ; but to be repaid by yearly instalments, which, as well as the annual expense of the establishment, were to be raised by assessments on the inhabitants. In a short time, the springs of Cardenhaugh were collected into a small reservoir near that place ; hence the water was conducted, by leaden pipes, to a cistern, or well, in the Castle-street, for the use of the inhabitants.\* This cistern, which is of very neat workmanship, is surmounted by a brass statue,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet high, from which the water, on days of rejoicing in former times, was made to play. Some years ago, it was removed from its original position, in the middle of the street, to the east end of it, where it still remains. The expense attending the execution of this undertaking, at Michaelmas, 1712, was L.1571 5s.  $7\frac{1}{2}$ d. sterling, as appears from the treasury accounts. The inhabitants having experienced the benefit of the supply of water thus afforded them, other springs were collected and added to the former, and small cisterns were built in the principal streets, by which means they were abundantly supplied. The population of the town having considerably increased in the course of sixty years, it became necessary to have an additional supply of this article. In the year 1766, it was resolved by the magistrates to bring in water from the fountain near the mill of Gilcomston, and to make improvements upon the conduits, and in the mode of distributing it through the town. Accordingly, a large reservoir was erected in the Broadgate, and a small one in the Green, for receiving the water from the fountains.† From those reservoirs it was distributed into the small cisterns, which, having formerly run night and day, were now provided with stop cocks, and the number of these were increased. Since the year 1795, this branch of public economy, formerly under the administration of the magistrates, has been conducted by thirteen commissioners, appointed in consequence of an act of parliament passed in that year, but now expired ; and, from time to time, very considerable improvements have been made upon the conduits, and in the mode of distributing the water, which is now abundant at all seasons. After supplying

---

\* Council Register, vol. lviii. p. 40. et seq.

† Ibid. vol. lxiii. p. 46. 76. et seq. 124.



plying the inhabitants, a large stream of limpid water runs down the Broadgate for many hours, day and night, from the overflowing of the cistern there, which generally contains about five hundred hogsheads. The produce of the springs on the high course, in winter, when at the fullest, is from fifty five to sixty gallons a minute : when at the lowest, in a dry season, fifteen gallons. The Gilcomston spring discharges from seventy to seventy five gallons a minute, at the fullest; and, in a dry season, from twenty five to twenty seven gallons. Besides the supplies from these fountains, the incorporation has a right to a spring on the lands of Hazlehead, about three miles distant, which discharges about sixty gallons a minute in winter, and about twenty two in a dry season. It has long been in contemplation to bring the water flowing from this spring into the town, for the accommodation of private families, on the plan adopted in Edinburgh and Glasgow ; but this important object has not yet been attained.

Under the direction of the above-mentioned commissioners the public lamps of the town are also placed. These were first introduced into Aberdeen in the year 1721, and were lighted, for many years, with rapeseed oil. In 1742, the number of the whole was only forty nine, but, some years afterwards, they were augmented to seventy. They were originally constructed of square lead or brass frames, filled up with common glass ; but, in place of these, crystal globes were introduced about the year 1751, and the lamps were lighted with whale oil.\* The expense of those different branches, and of paving, and keeping the streets in repair, is defrayed by an annual assessment of one shilling in the pound of the rent of dwelling houses and shops ; and the whole establishment is under the administration of the above-mentioned commissioners, who are biennially elected, from those inhabitants, whose rents amount to L.10 and upwards. Five of the old commissioners are continued at every election, and the other eight elected by those whose house rents amount to L.5 and upwards. This election did not, at any time, greatly interest the generality of the citizens ; nor did the mode of conducting

---

\* Council Register, vol. lxi. p. 78. 317. 563. 571. vol. lxii. p. 45.

conducting it, which was by signed lists, possess all the advantages which could have been wished for. On several occasions, it did not give general satisfaction; but the complaints were few, and the public are much indebted to those who have so long and disinterestedly taken the burthen of this important trust, and discharged it with so much fidelity.

Among other works of public utility, the commissioners have erected, at the Gallowhills, a magazine, or repository, for receiving gunpowder imported into the town by dealers in that article, as, by the act of parliament, four libs. only can be kept in any shop, at one time, in the way of being retailed. The expense of this building was upwards of L.320, defrayed from the ordinary assessment.

The commissioners, since the commencement of the act, have been in the practice of publishing states of their accounts annually, which satisfactorily shew the receipt and expenditure of the money under their administration. The following is an abstract of their account for the year from 30th March, 1816, to 31st March, 1817:—

#### MONEY RECEIVED DURING THE YEAR.

|                                                                            |   |   |   |        |    |    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|---|--------|----|----|
| To Cash received for Assessment                                            | - | - | - | L.1287 | 3  | 1½ |
| To Cash received for Dung, (including L.138 16s. 6d. arrears of last year) | - | - | - | 682    | 5  | 6  |
| To Cash received for lighting Private Lamps                                | - | - | - | 44     | 13 | 0  |
| To Cash received for Fines and Broken Lamps                                | - | - | - | 3      | 7  | 0  |
| Sum total received                                                         | - | - | - | L.2017 | 8  | 7½ |

#### EXPENDITURE.

|                                                                                                    |   |   |   |       |    |    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|---|-------|----|----|
| By Salaries to Treasurer and Clerk, Overseer, Superintendents, Shore Porters for Fire Engines, &c. | - | - | - | L.187 | 2  | 6  |
| By Printing and Stationary, and Rent of Committee Room, &c.                                        | - | - | - | 64    | 2  | 0  |
| By Incidental Charges                                                                              | - | - | - | 5     | 16 | 10 |
| By Cash expended on Wells and Water Course                                                         | - | - | - | 36    | 2  | 6  |
| By Cash paid expense of Public Lamps                                                               | - | - | - | 964   | 19 | 5  |
| Do. of repair of Streets, &c.                                                                      | - | - | - | 201   | 17 | 5½ |
| Do. of cleaning do. and removing Dung                                                              | - | - | - | 726   | 6  | 5  |
| Sum total expended                                                                                 | - | - | - | 2186  | 7  | 1½ |
| Super-expended                                                                                     | - | - | - | L.168 | 18 | 6  |
| Besides Interest to Commercial Bank, for Money advanced                                            | - | - | - | 75    | 8  | 10 |
| Total super-expenditure during the year                                                            | - | - | - | L.244 | 7  | 4  |

From

|                                                                                                            |   |   |   |   |   |        |    |                 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|--------|----|-----------------|
| From 31st March to 31st July, 1817, there was received for Assessment, Dung, and Private Lamps, the sum of | - | - | - | - | - | L.1022 | 18 | 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| And expended                                                                                               | - | - | - | - | - | 992    | 1  | 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Leaving, to be accounted for, a Balance of                                                                 |   |   |   |   |   | L.30   | 17 | 4               |

GENERAL ABSTRACT of the Total RECEIPT and EXPENDITURE during the period from June, 1795, the commencement of the Act, till 31st July, 1817, when it expired.

## RECEIPT.

|                                         |   |          |    |                 |
|-----------------------------------------|---|----------|----|-----------------|
| To Cash, Amount received for Assessment | } | L.24,927 | 5  | 7               |
| .. received for Dung                    |   |          |    |                 |
| .. due the Bank                         |   |          |    |                 |
|                                         |   | 4664     | 4  | 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
|                                         |   | 1372     | 14 | 10              |

## EXPENDITURE.

|                                                                                                              |          |       |                  |                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|-------|------------------|------------------|
| By Cash paid expense of obtaining the Act of Parliament                                                      | -        | L.690 | 2                | 6                |
| .. sundries, paving and repairing the Streets                                                                | -        | 5082  | 19               | 10               |
| .. expense on Street Lamps                                                                                   | 12,489   | 17    | 5                |                  |
| .. expense of bringing into town an additional supply of water, by the new cast iron main on the high course | 2144     | 9     | 3                |                  |
| .. sundries, Interest                                                                                        | -        | 2475  | 2                | 11               |
| .. sundries, Salaries                                                                                        | -        | 2749  | 8                | 7                |
| .. expense of building the Gunpowder Magazine, & Repairs                                                     | 326      | 3     | 4                |                  |
| .. sundries for Ground taken to widen Streets and Lanes                                                      | 480      | 14    | 1                |                  |
| .. sundry Miscellaneous Accounts and petty Charges                                                           | 1570     | 13    | 1                |                  |
| .. expense on Wells and Water Course                                                                         | -        | 2922  | 16               | 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Total Expenditure                                                                                            | L.30,933 | 7     | 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ |                  |
| Balance in Treasurer's Hands                                                                                 | 30       | 17    | 4                |                  |

Total Received L.30,964 5 2 $\frac{1}{2}$

L.30,964 5 2 $\frac{1}{2}$

The Floating Debt, (including L.1372 14s. 10d. due to the Bank, as above, for which the Directors consider the Commissioners, as Representatives of the Public, personally bound, and sundry Accounts unsettled, for Lamp Globes, &c. L.300 10s. 2d.) is, at this date, 31st July, 1817, L.1673 5s.

## OF THE BRIDGE OF DEE,

This was among the earliest and most important works of public utility, reared by the hand of benevolence, for the advantage not only



only of the town of Aberdeen, but of the whole country, and is a lasting monument of the liberality of the original founders. At an early period, the inhabitants of Aberdeen seem to have experienced the inconvenience of passing the river Dee by the common ferry, which, in ancient times, was at the Craglug, distinguished, as well as the lands near it, by the name of Ferryhill. About the year 1448, the alderman and baillies designed a bridge over the river, a little above this ferry, and it would seem that some progress had been made in the undertaking. They entered into a contract with Mr. John Livingston, vicar of Inverugie, for superintending and directing it; and the council and community voted L.20, to be paid annually, for ten years, from the public funds, for the purpose of defraying the expense\* of the building; but what progress was made in it we have not been informed. It is probable that the undertaking was relinquished by the community, when it was found to be of too great a magnitude for their slender means. About the beginning of the sixteenth century, William Elphinston, bishop of Aberdeen, projected the present bridge, of seven arches, over the river, distant about two miles from the town, and commenced the building, but died before the structure was far advanced. Bishop Gavin Dunbar, on succeeding to the episcopal see, recommenced the work, which had remained neglected from the time of the founder's death, and, in the space of a few years, completed the building, upon his own expense. Having accomplished this noble undertaking about the year 1527, he, some time afterwards, delivered over the bridge to the charge of the magistrates, council, and community, and, at the same time, presented to them a grant of the lands of Ardlair,† in the parish of Clat, as a fund for supporting the fabric, and for rebuilding it at any future period, if that should become necessary. They accepted this munificent donation, and in return gave their obligation,‡ to the  
beneficent

---

\* Council Register, vol. v. p. 108.

† These lands had been granted by Alexander Stuart, Earl of Mar, to the cathedral and the Bishop of Aberdeen, by a charter, dated 10th February, 1407.

‡ "Curia balliuorū burgi de Abirden tenta in pretorio eiusd xvii<sup>a</sup> die mensis Decembris, Anno Dñi

beneficent prelate, to perform the condition upon which the grant had been made.

In this age of superstition, according to the custom of the time, the bridge was provided with a chapel, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, erected on the north end, that travellers who passed and repassed

3 II

might

1529, p̄ honorabiles viros Alex̄m Ruřfurd, et Alex̄m Mēzies, duos balliuorū de Abirden, pro t̄bunali sedeñ.

“ The said day, in ye bailze court of ye said bur̄, haldin in ye tolbuī of ye sam̄, be ye bailzeis aboun writin, in p̄ns of ane part of ye counsall and n̄ytbours of ye sam̄ burght, cōperit worschipfull clerk Mais̄ Robert Elphinstoun, p̄sone of Kyncardin, and Mais̄ Alēx̄r Galloway, p̄sone of Kynkell, in name and behalf of ane reuerend fāȳr in God, Gawane, bischop of Abirden, and expōnit and shew openlie in plane court how ye said reuerend fāȳr, one his grit exorbitant and sumptuous expenss, had bigit of new ane nobill and substācius Brig, dotit and finsait w̄t all necessā, ōr ye wat̄ and rywer of Dee, řynand one ye soūi syd of ye said bur̄, for ye cōmond weill, and specialie for ye weill of ye burgh̄ of Abirden, q̄lk Brig and noble wark cōpletit and endit substāciuslie in all necessā for p̄petualite of ye sam̄, he, w̄t express cōsent and assent of his deyne and chaptour of ye cathederall kyrk of Abirdene, all in ane voce and p̄sent he had gewin to ye provost, bailzeis, counsaill, and cōm̄ite of Abirden, togedd̄ w̄t ye landes of Ardlar, w̄t ye p̄tinēte, liand in ye schire of Clat, lordschip of Garreaut, and šefdome of Abirden; and infect yame, ye said p̄vost, bailzeis, counsaill, and cōm̄ite, & ř, sūcrs in ye sam̄ landis, w̄t ye p̄tinēte, be chartour and p̄cept of sesing, in dew forme, under his L. autentik seill, and subscriptionn manuall of his hand, cōmond seill of his said chaptour, togidd̄ w̄t ye subscriptionis manualis of ye maist part of ye chānonis of ye said cathederal kyrk of Abirdene, for ye p̄petuall mēteining, reparing, mēding, uphalding, and, gif neid beis, biging of new of ye said Brig, als oft as it sall hapin it to faill or decaid, in all or in part, in all tymis to cum, sa lang as ya or ř sūcrs, p̄vest, bailzeis, counsaill, and cōm̄ite peciablie bruik ye said lands of Ardlar, on acoūit and ouptenit fray yā be ye law, To ye q̄lk ye saids provost, bailzeis, counsaill, and cōm̄ite, had bunden and oblest yā and ř sūcrs, p̄nt and to cum, for ye tyme, be ane atētik band and obligationn, und ye cōmond seill and subscriptionn of ye maist part of řr handis for ye tyme, togidd̄ w̄t ye subscriptionis of diu<sup>o</sup> famous notars, in ye soūest forme; and řeff̄ ye said Mais̄ Alēx̄r Galloway, p̄sone of Kynkell, deliūit and ōr gaif ye said Brig frelie, w̄t ye p̄tinēte, to ane honorable mā Alēx̄r Ruřfurd, ane of ye bailzeis of ye said bur̄, sitand in iugmēt for ye tyme, togidd̄ w̄t ye actētik chartour and p̄cept of seising of the said landes of Ardlar, w̄t ř p̄tinēte, seilit and subscriuit, actētiklie, as is afor writin; and ressaut, be ye handis of ye saids Alēx̄r Ruřfurd, ye actētik band and obligationn of ye said p̄vost, bailzeis, counsaill, and cōm̄ite, seilit and subscriuit, in dew forme, as said is, for p̄petual mēding, reparing, onphalding, and biging of new of ye said Brig, als oft as neid beis, as said is. And řeff̄ ye saids Mais̄ Robert Elphinstoun and Alēx̄r Galloway, in name and behalf of ye said reuerend fāȳ, dene, and chaptour, forsaid, obligit yame yat gif ye saids chartour and p̄cept of sesing war not sufficientlie maid and dilitat yis tyme, to reform and mak of new ye same aye and q̄ll ya war fundin and cōsiderit sufficient be mē of wisdome and understanding; and clikwiss ye said p̄vost, bailzeis, counsaill, and cōm̄ite, forsaid, oblegit yā and sūcrs, p̄nt and to cum, gif yar said band and obligān be not sufficient, to reforme, mend, and mak of new ye

might have an opportunity of exercising solemn acts of devotion at its altar, of which Sir William Rae was chaplain.\* There belonged to this institution a silver crucifix, chalice of silver, an image of the Virgin, over gilt, three embroidered napkins, and other sacred utensils, some of which were preserved at the Reformation, when the chapel was probably demolished.

In the year 1592, the lands of Ardlair were sold, by the magistrates and town council, to John Leslie of Balquhain, for the sum of four thousand merks. This money was afterwards applied towards payment of the price for which the community had repurchased from Gilbert Menzies of Pitfoddels the feu of the town's public mills, to which he had, some years previously, acquired right. It appears, however, from the public accounts, that this money was afterwards accounted for, by the treasurer, to the Bridge of Dee funds, and that these were laid out at interest, and improved by accumulation in such a manner as to enable the administrators to defray the expense of rebuilding the bridge, and to leave a considerable surplus behind. This was again improved by profitable purchases of lands,† for the benefit of the bridge; and a very ample fund still belongs to it, under the administration of the town council.

On the south end of this fabric, there was, in ancient times, a porch, with a watch tower over it, in which the citizens mounted guard, in the time of commotion in the country, or on the alarm of the plague

---

samȝ, aye and ȝill it be cōsiderit sufficient be mē of law and understanding, als oft as neid beis. And forȝ ye saids Maistis Robert Elphinstoun and Aleȝr Galloway oblegit yā, in name and behalf of ye said reuerend faȝ, dene, and chaptour, to deliū to ye said ȝvost, bailzeis, counsall, and cōmite, ye hail ȝces of ye ȝcognitionn of ye saids landis of Ardlar, quhire ya war recognest fra umȝll Andw Elphinstoun, &c. togidd ȝt all instrūts and documēts maid to ye said reuerend faȝ, or his ȝdecesours, of ye said landis, and all uȝ evidents and documēts cōcerning ye samȝ landis, ȝtout ony langer delay."—[*Council Register*, vol. xii. p. 734.]

\* The patronage of this foundation belonged to the bishop of Aberdeen, as proprietor of the lands of Ruthrieston, on which the chapel was built, and which now belong to Alex. Duthie, Esq.

† *Council Register*, vol. xxxiv. p. 736. vol. xxxvi. p. 708.



plague spreading northward, that strangers might be prevented from entering the town, without obtaining permission. In the time of the civil war, in the seventeenth century, the bridge was often a disputed post by contending armies, a circumstance which we have already had occasion to notice. In the year 1679, the porch was ornamented with the town's coat of arms, and that of Bishop Elphinston, the original founder, placed over it. About the beginning of the eighteenth century, the bridge had fallen so much into decay, that it became necessary to rebuild the greatest part of it, particularly the arches and superstructure. In the year 1718, the work was commenced, and, in the course of the four subsequent years, completed, as it stands at the present time. The stones used in the work were imported, by sea, from Moray, and from the frith of Forth, which circumstance will account for the materials of which the bridge is composed being different in quality from any in this part of the country. It was finished on the south end with an elegant porch of dressed stone, almost of the same construction with the original one; but, about the year 1773, it was removed, for the purpose of affording more convenient access to carriages. The bridge is a light building, of seven semicircular ribbed arches; but, although it is regularly and substantially built, according to the rules of architecture, there are not two of the piers finished, in the upper part of the parapet, on the same parallel line, which can easily be discovered by the eye. The bridge was long complained of as incommodious for modern wheel-carriages, by reason of its narrowness, but that has lately been remedied by certain improvements on the carriage way. The line of road to the bridge from the north was also indirect and inconvenient, but, of late years, the approach has been made in a direct line to it over the hollow grounds, by means of a bridge, which is finished with a handsome cast metal railing. On the south end, the approach has also been improved, and made direct, since the turnpike road was completed. In the accounts of the master of kirk and bridge works, made up under the new system, in the year 1811, the funds belonging to the bridge stood as follows:—

To

|                                                                                                                      |   |   |   |   |        |   |   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|--------|---|---|
| To the value of the feu duties of the lands of Gilcomston, payable partly in grain and partly in money—(L.88 yearly) | - | - | - | - | L.1760 | 0 | 0 |
| .. ditto of tack of Mill of Gilcomston, and Lint Mill—(L.8 16s. 8d. yearly)                                          | - | - | - | - | 200    | 0 | 0 |
| .. Feu duty Caparstone                                                                                               | - | - | - | - | 1      | 2 | 0 |
| .. Money advanced to the Commutation Road Trustees                                                                   | - | - | - | - | 300    | 0 | 0 |
|                                                                                                                      |   |   |   |   | <hr/>  |   |   |
|                                                                                                                      |   |   |   |   | L.2261 | 2 | 0 |

Since that time, these funds have been increased, by the accumulation of interest, and may now amount to about L.4000.

#### OF THE BRIDGE OF DON.

This ancient fabric is also under the charge of the magistrates and council, who are the administrators of a considerable fund belonging to it. Some of our historians relate, that it was projected by Bishop Henry Cheyne,\* who was in the episcopal see of Aberdeen in the end of the thirteenth century, and built at his expense; but this information must have been founded entirely upon conjecture, which shall be immediately shown. Sir Alexander Hay, one of the clerks of session, afterwards lord clerk register, by a charter,† dated February

---

\* Principal Boece, in his Life of Bishop Cheyne, takes no notice of such a work having been executed by him, although he is very circumstantial in his account of the erection of the Bridge of Dee by Bishops Elphinston and Dunbar, in his account of their lives.—[*Boetius de Vitis Epis. Abredonen.*]

† The following is an extract taken from the original Charter, in the archives of the town:—

“ Omnibus hanc cartam visuris vel audituris Magister Alexander Hay, clericus senatus et consilij S. D. N. regis ac hereditarius proprietarius omnium terrarum feudifirmaſm et annuorum redditum olim ad capellanos seu vicarios chori ecclesie cathedralis Aberdoneſm spectanſm eternam in domino salutem noueritis me pro zelo motum In honorem Dei omnipotentis, et ut sustineatur policia hujus regni, in hac parte, Et quia annales testantur pontem lapidum super aquam de Done, prope burgum de Aberdene constructum fuisse ex mandato et impensis Quondam invictissimi principis Roberti Bruce, Scotie regni optime memorie Regis, qui partim injuria temporis partim quod nulli proventus suppetant unde sustineatur ad inſm perducı videtur Et quia plurimum interest toti boreali parti prefati regni presertim civibus dicti burgi ne antiquum illud monumentum corruat et ex alijs causis rationi consonis animam meam ad hoc moveſm itaque donasse concessisse alienasse et hac presenti carta mea confirmasse Tenoreq. presentium donare concedere alienare et hac presenti carta mea confirmare preposito, ballivis, consulis, et communitati dicti burgi de Aberdene, et eorum successoribus, totas et integras firmas feodifirmarias et annuos redditus meos subscriptos annuatim leuam et percipiem ad terminos cons de terris etcroftis subscripſi, viz. Annuam firmam feudifirmariam qua-

February 1st, 1605, granted to the council and community certain annuities, amounting to L.27 8s. 6d. Scottish money, arising from various crofts of land in the neighbourhood of Aberdeen, to answer as a fund for defraying the expense of repairing and otherwise supporting the bridge. These annuities had formerly belonged to the chaplains of the cathedral church of Aberdeen, and were acquired by him subsequent to the Reformation. In that charter, he particularly mentions that the bridge was the noble work of the renowned and illustrious King Robert Bruce; and that he had obtained this information from certain annals, to which he had had access. This donation from Sir Alexander Hay, being only L.2 5s. 8½d. sterling, was the original mean of raising the present opulent fund belonging

---

tuor decem librarum usualis monete regni Scotie de croftis subscriptis debitam olim Mg<sup>ro</sup> Roberto Lumsden de Clovath incumben et nunc ad Alexandrum Cule<sup>n</sup> burgen de Abd hereditarie spectan jace<sup>n</sup> infra territorium croftarum burgi de Aberdene, viz. Una crofta vocat adie pingill jace<sup>n</sup> inter croftam quondam Alexandri Gray ex australi croftam quondam Johannis Cheyne ex boreali communem viam regiam ex orientali et Lie Cruiked myre ex occidentali partibus ac alia crofta terre nuncupat Lie langrigg inter croftam Alexandri Kempt ex australi croftam olim fratribus predicatoribus incumben ex boreali com<sup>u</sup>n viam regiam ex orientale et dictum lie Cruiked myre ex occidentali partibus Et alia crofta jace<sup>n</sup> prope domum leprosororum inter croftam ad collegium regale de Aberdene spectan ex australi croftam quondam Johannis Wear ex boreali communem viam regiam ex orientali et lie Calseymyre ex occidentali partibus ac alia crofta prope lie Spittelhill inter croftam dicti quondam Johannes Wear ex australi lie Spittelhill ex boreali communem viam regiam ex orientali et lie Calsymyir ex occidentali partibus et alia crofta vocat fill ye cop per quondam Magistrum Adamum Gordoun fundat jace<sup>n</sup> prope lie theiffis briggies inter croftam Davidis Mar ex australi et orientali partibus croftam olim dictis fratribus predicatoribus pertine<sup>n</sup> ex boreali et com<sup>u</sup>n viam regiam ex occidentali partibus Item aliam firmam feudifirmariam novem librarum monete predictae de terris quondam Mag<sup>ri</sup> Ale<sup>x</sup>ri Galloway, rectoris de Kinkell, vocat Cryns wallis nunc Thome quhyt naute burgen dicti burgi incumben jace<sup>n</sup> in territorio de Futtie infra libertatem dicti burgi inter terras Davidis Andersoun ex boreali terras vocat thrie lang riggis ex australi fluxum Maris ex occiden et terras quondam Johannis Mar ex occiden partibus Et de dictis terris vocat thrie Lang riggis jace<sup>n</sup> ex australi parte de lie auld wallis inter terras dicti Davidis Andersoun et terras Andree Murray ex australi terras vocat Sandilandis et terras Johannis Mar ex boreali terras communitatis de Aberdene lie Linkis ex orien et terras dicti Andree Murray ex occiden partibus et de dictis terris vocat Sandilandis Jace<sup>n</sup> inter dictas terras vocat thrie Lang riggis ex australi terras Andree Murray ex boreali terras lie Linkis nuncupat ex orien et terras dicti Johannis Mar ex occiden partibus Et de terras nuncupat lie cuttingis de Futties myre Jace<sup>n</sup> inter terras dicti Alexandri Cullen ex australi Futties myre ex boreali dictas terras vocat lie Linkis ex orien et terras quondam Willelmi Fuddis ex occidentali partibus ac de terris dicti quondam Mag<sup>ri</sup> Alexandri, jace<sup>n</sup> inter viam publicam vocat boulgget ex boreali aqueductum discenden a lie Futties myir ex australi terras quondam domini de Barnis ex occiden et Futties myir," &c.



longing to the bridge. The annuities which he transferred were lent out and improved at interest, under the direction of the administrators, till the year 1709, when the council having purchased the lands of Easter Skene, for the behoof of various public institutions under their administration, a certain portion of these lands was appropriated to the bridge, and the accumulated fund applied, in part, to the payment of the price. By the rise in value of the property which had been thus purchased, the yearly revenue of this fund has now increased to about L.600 sterling, and the property belonging to it is estimated to be equal to L.12,000 sterling. The structure is formed of one Gothic arch, founded upon a rock on each side of the river, where it is narrowest. It is sixty six feet ten inches wide at the bottom, and thirty four feet six inches high above the surface of the river, which, at ebb tide, is here nineteen feet and an half deep. The bridge is so narrow that two carriages cannot pass upon it, and is become very much decayed ; besides, the approaches to it from the higher grounds, on each end, are extremely inconvenient, and even dangerous, to loaded carriages.

In ancient times it would appear that the bridge, distinguished by the name of *Polgown*,\* was provided with a chapel, for religious purposes, in the same manner as the bridge of Dee, according to the custom of the age, and was under the sole charge and direction of the magistrates of Aberdeen. In the year 1443, they voted the admission fees of a burgess of guild to be paid to Sir William Ettles, the chaplain, for defraying the expense of repairing the bridge ; and, in the year 1605, the community voted the sum of five hundred merks, for the same purpose;† but the donation from Sir Alexander Hay, which followed within a few months after, superseded the necessity of levying this grant from the citizens.

As the funds are now so ample, and the bridge only deserving to be preserved as a memorable structure of antiquity, on account of its  
illustrious

---

\* It is so written in the record.

† Council Register, vol. v. p. 680. vol. xlii. p. 148. 169.

illustrious founder, it has been in contemplation to appropriate the funds to the expense of constructing a new bridge over the river, a little way below the old one, so as to form a connexion betwixt Ellon turnpike road and the new line, made out from the Castle-street, towards the Don. If this project were accomplished, it would undoubtedly be of essential advantage, not only to the town, but to the public at large. The situation of the old bridge is extremely picturesque, the left bank of the river being here a high precipice, covered with wood. The preservation of the old fabric would be a desirable object; and if this were obtained, then the benevolent designs of the original founder of the very ample stock now belonging to it would be completely answered; while the funds, in place of being hoarded up for no purpose whatever, would be usefully and beneficially employed for the advantage of the community at large.

In the new system of accounts of the master of kirk and bridge works, made up in the year 1811, the funds belonging to the bridge stood as follows:—

|                                                                                                                                         |   |   |        |    |   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|--------|----|---|
| To 3-10th parts of the lands of Skene, having a revenue, in rents and feu duties, of L.226 16s. estimated at twenty five years purchase | - | - | L.5670 | 0  | 0 |
| .. estimated value of Annuities granted by Sir Alex. Hay, Lord Clerk Register                                                           | - |   | 45     | 14 | 6 |
| .. Debt due by the Commutation Road Trustees, for Road to the Bridge                                                                    | - |   | 650    | 0  | 0 |
|                                                                                                                                         |   |   | <hr/>  |    |   |
|                                                                                                                                         |   |   | L.6365 | 14 | 5 |

Since that time, the fund has increased, by the accumulation of interest, and is now conjectured to be about L.12,000, as already mentioned.

#### DISTILLERY.

About the year 1794, a very extensive work for the distillation from corn, of spirits, for the English market, was projected, near the bridge, upon the left bank of the river, and completed in the end of the year. The great inducement for erecting it there was the command of a water-fall for driving machinery, upon the bank of the river, which is navigable for small vessels as far up as the bridge. It was intended to distil annually the produce of 12000 quarters of corn. The unfavourable season 1795, the embargo on shipping, and other circumstances,

circumstances, however, prevented the company from consuming more than 8215 quarters, from which spirits were distilled, and paid, upon importation into London, L.26,800 sterling of duty, besides about L.1000, which had been paid for the duty on malt. The principal part of the corn was the produce of Aberdeenshire, and the remainder was imported from the adjacent districts, the whole being the growth of Scotland. In this distillery half barley and half bear were used, it being found, by experience, that there is more farina, or saccharine matter, in barley than in bear, and it is that only which produces spirit.\*

This undertaking was conducted, for several years, with the greatest prospect of advantage to the proprietors ; but, owing to an alteration having taken place in the excise laws, and other unfavourable circumstances, it was relinquished. Part of the works were demolished, and part of them were afterwards converted to other purposes.

---

\* Statistical Account of Scotland, vol. xix. p. 222.



## CONTINUATION OF THE NARRATIVE,

FROM PAGE 374.

*Proceedings of the Burgesses, Incorporated Trades, and Administrators of the Borough, for the restoration of its elective franchise—Proceedings before the Privy Council—Warrant granted to the Magistrates and Council elected at Michaelmas, 1816, to nominate the New Council, Magistrates, and Office-bearers, &c.*

THE judgment which was pronounced by the court of session in A.D. 1818. the important question between the burgesses and the administrators of the town, as formerly noticed, having become final, the three bailies and three counsellors, who had been elected at Michaelmas, 1817, and had accepted, surrendered their several offices, in compliance with that judgment.

On the 20th of April, the burgesses, along with many respectable heritors and householders of the town, assembled in the West church, for the purpose of petitioning his Majesty for the restoration of a regular government to the borough. A petition having accordingly been prepared, was subscribed by nearly two thousand citizens, and, some days afterwards, transmitted to Lord Sidmouth, his Majesty's principal secretary of state for the home department, in order to be presented to the Prince Regent in council.

In the course of preparing this petition, a difference appears to have arisen between the members of the incorporated trades and the burgesses of guild, with regard to its terms, as not comprehending any reference to an extension of their political influence in the town council, or to the peculiar grievances of which they complained.

A.D. 1818. In certain resolutions\* which they had previously adopted, they, among other articles, demanded, that, before expressing their concurrence

\* [11th April, 1818.]—REPORT OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE, APPOINTED BY THE SEVEN INCORPORATED TRADES OF ABERDEEN.

In laying the following Report before their constituents, the committee take the liberty of impressing on them the absolute necessity of having the common indenture of 1587 annihilated and laid aside. By this deed, the trades, for the last two hundred and thirty years, have been subjected to the vassalage and tyrannical oppression of the magistrates of Aberdeen; and, unless this indenture be now done away, any new constitution that may be obtained for the borough can only have the effect of amusing the fancy, without conferring any permanent advantage on the corporations.

With the understanding, therefore, that this obnoxious instrument shall be entirely kept out of view, in laying down the grounds of a new constitution for the borough of Aberdeen, the committee now beg leave to state the following as the result of their labours, in so far as regards the interest of the seven incorporated trades; and they may premise that, in the meantime, they have confined their deliberations to the subject of the privileges they should enjoy—the extent of their representation in council—the terms of entering with the town—and the mode of election of their representatives.

In the first place, then—As it is proposed that the trades should pay to the common good of the borough equally with the guildry, the committee conceive that it would be reasonable and proper that the two bodies should be on an equal footing in regard to the privilege of exporting and importing, dealing in merchandise, carrying on trade within the borough, and to the payment of customs and dues; and that unfreemen, whether merchants or tradesmen, should be obliged to enter with that particular trade, the occupation they respectively profess.

*Secondly*—They recommend that the incorporations should have six representatives in council—their convener, *ex officio*, being one of that number; and that the other thirteen should be representatives of the guildry, making, in all, nineteen: And that all the counsellors, whether from the guildry or the trades, should be equally eligible to hold any situation in the council. It being understood, that the deacons of crafts shall go up to the council, and vote, according to use and wont, at the election of the office-bearers; and that the convener shall, at all times, be a member of council committees.

*Thirdly*—The committee propose, that the seven corporations should agree, that all entrants with them shall pay the same dues to the common good of the borough as those entering the guildry shall be obliged to pay; but that no entrant trades' burgess shall pay any thing whatever to the guildry funds—it being provided, that the funds of the guildry and treasury of Aberdeen be kept entirely separate and distinct in time coming; and the committee recommend, that measures should be taken for the purpose of obtaining the annual publication of the treasurer of Aberdeen's accounts. It may also be stated, that it would only be fair in the corporations to give up any controul which they at present possess, by means of their counsellors, in the management of the guildry funds, which should be left entirely to the burgesses of guild. At the same time, it must be observed, as the guildry and the trades are to pay equally to the common good, or treasury funds of the borough, if ever it should happen that these funds, appropriated for the common good of the borough, should

rence in any application to be made to their sovereign, for restoring the elective franchise, the common indenture, which had, for upwards of two hundred and thirty years, marked the political line of distinction between them and the guildry, should be annulled and set aside; that they should thenceforward be on the same footing, with respect to the privilege of exporting and importing goods and commodities, of dealing in merchandize, carrying on trade within the town, and as to the payment of customs and shore-dues; that they should have six representatives in the council, their convener, *ex officio*, being one of that number; and that all the counsellors, whether members of the guildry or of the incorporations, should be eligible to hold any situation in the council, except the office of dean of guild. These fresh demands of the trades, so injudicious, and altogether incompatible with the nature of the respective privileges\* of the guildry and of the incorporations, could not, with propriety,

3 1 2

---

accumulate to more than what is necessary for the ordinary expenditure, and should afford the means of support to the indigent, (as has been the case in other boroughs,) that the members of the seven incorporations will be equally entitled with the members of the guildry to the benefit of these funds.

*In the fourth place*—The committee have only to recommend, on this point, that the representatives of the seven corporations in council should be trades' burgesses only, and not burgesses of guild, and that they should be elected and sent up by the seven trades themselves. With regard to the "particular mode of election by the seven corporations, the committee have not come to any decided resolution."

The above report was approved of by the general meeting of the seven corporations, held on the 16th April current; and the unanimous thanks of the meeting were voted to the committee, for their assiduous and persevering exertions in endeavouring to procure a liberal constitution to the borough.

\* In few royal boroughs of the kingdom are the respective rights and privileges of the guildry and of the incorporated trades so distinctly defined as in that of Aberdeen. Though these now form an integral part of the constitution of the borough, and participate in the political influence of the town council, their ancestors derived their rights and privileges from the burgesses of guild, by whose concessions they afterwards acquired, during an early period, certain immunities, and also the privilege of inland trade, which, by the then existing laws and usages, was confined to the guildry solely. This and every other privilege which was confirmed to them by the decree arbitral on the common indenture, formerly noticed, they inherit from their ancestors, but beyond that they can have no just pretension. For this extended privilege, and towards the expense of supporting the dignity of the borough, they, by that solemn compact, reciprocally made by them and the guildry,



A.D. 1818. priety, be acceded to, on the part of the burgesses. They evidently had a tendency to remove that line of distinction between them, which had been so long observed; to destroy the balance, so carefully poised, between the merchants and trades; and even to undermine the ancient set and constitution of the borough. The burgesses of guild, therefore, resisted every attempt to introduce, in their petition, the conditions upon which the artificers desired a restoration of the civil government of the borough. The consequence of this was, that the members of the corporations declined to have any further political intercourse with the burgesses; and few, if any of them, signed the petition. Being thus frustrated in their attempts to acquire additional privileges and immunities, to which they could have no just pretensions, and to extend their influence in the political affairs of the borough, they adopted separate measures; and prepared and transmitted a petition from themselves to the Prince Regent. In the meanwhile, the members of the town council, who had been duly elected at Michaelmas, 1816, and had served for the subsequent year, were advised to present to their sovereign a memorial or submission, stating the error or informality which had been committed in the election of their successors, whereby that election had been annulled by the supreme court, and the borough left without a regular magistracy; therefore praying that his Royal Highness, by and with the advice of his Majesty's most honourable privy council, would interpose such remedy as to his wisdom might seem fit.

This memorial was afterwards supported by a petition from a small number of burgesses, and others, praying that the Prince Regent would, according to the plan which had been adopted by his royal predecessors on some previous occasions, grant an order to the town

---

agreed to pay certain compositions to the dean of guild and the treasurer, upon their admission to the respective corporations. Hence those restrictions, and the payment of those compositions, which the incorporated trades now consider as real grievances and objects of serious complaint, without reflecting upon their nature, or the circumstances under which they originated. When laws are made and customs are established, these must be the rule and the guide.—[*Vide Charters from King William, from Alexander II. & III. vol. i. p. 8, 9, 11, 12, 13.—Acts of Parliament, vol. ii. p. 49. 86. 178. for the years 1457. 1466, 1487.—and Common Indenture, vol. ii. p. 448.*]

town council who had retired from office at Michaelmas, 1817, to re-  
assemble and elect their successors, conformable to the usual practice. A.D. 1818.

On the 9th of May, this interesting case, of so much importance to the citizens of Aberdeen, and even to those of other royal boroughs in Scotland, in a similar situation, came to be heard, by eminent counsel, before the lords of his Majesty's privy council. The petitions which had been presented, were taken up in the following order.---The two first were the memorial and submission from the members of the old council, and the petition from the few burgesses, and others, formerly noticed; the third petition was from the burgesses at large, and the inhabitants, "praying that his Royal Highness, in order to restore a regular magistracy to the borough, would grant his warrant for a poll election by the whole burgesses; and, as a remedy for the grievances of which they had so much cause to complain, in the present mode of election, and of management of the public affairs of the borough, that he would also concede to them the privilege, thenceforward, of electing, annually, in the same manner, a majority of the town council." The fourth petition was from the incorporated trades, framed nearly in the terms of their resolutions, already noticed.

After counsel had been fully heard in support of these several petitions, they were ordered to be transmitted, along with the various papers and documents to which they had reference, to the lord advocate of Scotland, and to the attorney and solicitor general of England; with instructions to prepare a report, and opinion thereon, for the information of the privy council. These reports having accordingly been prepared and presented, the case came under the final determination of the privy council upon Monday the 3d of August, when his Royal Highness, having taken these reports into consideration, was pleased, in the name and on the behalf of his Majesty, and by and with the advice of his privy council, to approve thereof, and to "order, that, for restoring the peace and good government of the borough of Aberdeen, the same persons who might have elected the magistrates, counsellors, and other office bearers of the said borough, on Wednesday the 24th of September last, or such of their number as  
may

A.D. 1818. may be alive, or capable of acting, do, on Wednesday the 23d of September, in this present year, assemble in the common council house of the said city of Aberdeen, at twelve o'clock at noon; and do then and there proceed to make or complete the election of magistrates, counsellors, and other office bearers, to serve in the said borough of Aberdeen from the said 23d day of September, in this present year, until the ordinary time of the annual change of the magistrates, counsellors, and other office bearers of the said borough, in the year 1819; and that then and from thenceforth the procedure in the election of magistrates, counsellors, and other officers, be made and continued, according to the constitution, set, and custom of the said borough."

Such has been the result of this arduous struggle for political power between the burgesses of guild and the administrators of the borough; a struggle which has excited much discontent, ferment, and political animosity, in the community; and has terminated contrary to the expectations of those citizens who favoured a popular election.

How far his Majesty's legal advisers have acted, in this case, according to wisdom, or with a due consideration to the ancient constitution of the borough, we shall not presume to question: nor is it, indeed, our province to inquire into the motives which have influenced them to advise the sovereign to exercise the royal prerogative, in the manner that has been done, for restoring the civil government of the borough, or to anticipate consequences. It is our duty to relate the real occurrences only, in this political contest, and to explain their causes and effects; but beyond these we must not, as annalists, make any excursion.

Though the burgesses had failed in their efforts to obtain a warrant for a poll election, they were far from being dismayed by the preference which had been given, by his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, to the former magistrates and counsellors to elect their successors. On the 14th of September, a numerous body of the burgesses assembled, and adopted certain resolutions, which were chiefly confined



confined to expressing their sentiments, not only with regard to the present state of the public affairs of the borough, but upon the nature of the warrant issued by the privy council, which, they were advised, was illegal, and without precedent.\* At the same time, if any election

A.D. 1818.

\* Since the union of the two kingdoms, in the year 1707, no instance has occurred of a magistracy having been restored, otherwise than by a poll election of the burgesses, except in those cases where the magistrates were prevented from meeting to elect their successors in office by the insurrections in 1715 and 1745. In confirmation of this, we shall annex a List of Royal Warrants which have been granted to Royal Boroughs of Scotland, since that epoch, extracted from the registers of the privy council, as stated in the *Scotsman* newspaper, of the 5th of September, 1818:—

| <i>Places.</i>                                   | <i>Dates.</i>      | <i>Reason for Granting.</i>                                                                          | <i>Form of Grant.</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Burntisland,<br><i>Poll Election.</i>         | March 31, 1709.    | Petition of Burgesses &c. for regulation of Magistracy, for some years, abandoned.                   | Popular election by the Burgesses, and whole Community, of a Provost, &c. according to the ancient constitution.                                                                                                                                      |
| 2. Kirkcaldy,<br><i>Poll Election.</i>           | August 31, 1715.   | Petition of Burgesses and Inhabitants, stating want of regulation of the Magistracy.                 | Popular election by the Burgesses and Inhabitants, bearing a share of the common burdens, by poll of 21 persons to be Counsellors, with power to elect their Office-bearers.                                                                          |
| 3. Dundee,<br><i>Poll Election.</i>              | March 10, 1715-16. | Report of the Lord Advocate and Solicitor General, of Boroughs, of elections prevented by rebellion. | Popular election by the Burgesses and Inhabitants, &c. verbatim as in the case of Kirkcaldy, No. 2.                                                                                                                                                   |
| 4. Perth,<br><i>Old Magistrates to elect.</i>    | March 10, 1715-16. | Same report as in the case of Dundee, No. 3.                                                         | The Magistrates who served for the preceding year authorised to proceed in the election of Magistrates and Council, to serve till the ordinary time of the annual election, in such manner as they ought to have done, if not disturbed by rebellion. |
| 5. Aberdeen,<br><i>Old Magistrates to elect.</i> | March 10, 1715-16. | Same as in the case of Perth, No. 4.                                                                 | The Magistrates of last year authorised to elect, as in the case of Perth, No. 4.                                                                                                                                                                     |

*Places.*

A.D. 1818. election under it should be attempted, the meeting pledged itself to oppose it, and all proceedings connected with it, by every legal and constitutional mean.

These

---

| <i>Places.</i>                            | <i>Dates.</i>    | <i>Reason for Granting.</i>                                                                                               | <i>Form of Grant.</i>                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-------------------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 6. Montrose,<br><i>Poll Election.</i>     | April 6, 1716.   | Motion at the Board as in the case of Dundee, No. 3.                                                                      | Popular election by the Burgesses, &c. verbatim as in the case of Kirkcaldy, No. 2.                                                                                                   |
| 7. Brechin,<br><i>Poll Election.</i>      | Do.              | Do. Do.                                                                                                                   | Do. Do.                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 8. Aberbrothick,<br><i>Poll Election.</i> | Do.              | Do. Do.                                                                                                                   | Do. Do.                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 9. Fortrose,<br><i>Poll Election.</i>     | June 1, 1716.    | Do. Do.                                                                                                                   | Do. Do.                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 10. Inverness,<br><i>Poll Election.</i>   | June 25, 1716.   | Do. Do.                                                                                                                   | Do. Do.                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 11. Elgin,<br><i>Poll Election.</i>       | Do.              | Do. Do.                                                                                                                   | Do. Do.                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 12. Burntisland,<br><i>Poll Election.</i> | June 25, 1719.   | Petition of Burgesses and Inhabitants, stating, by reason of the rebellion, no Magistrates elected.                       | Popular election to Burgesses and Inhabitants, and whole Community, of a Provost, according to the ancient constitution.                                                              |
| 13. Montrose,<br><i>Poll Election.</i>    | August 27, 1723. | Petition of Burgesses stating, that the Court of Session had reduced the elections of two contending sets of Magistrates. | Poll election by all the Burgesses, (qualified as by law required) of Town-Council, Provost, and Baillies, according to the ancient constitution.                                     |
| 14. Haddington,<br><i>Poll Election.</i>  | Sept. 19, 1723.  | Petition of Burgesses, stating, that the Court of Session had reduced the election of two contending sets of Magistrates. | Poll election by all the Burgesses (qualified as by law required) of Counsellors and Magistrates, according to the ancient constitution.                                              |
| 15. Cupar,<br><i>Poll Election.</i>       | June 1, 1725.    | Petition of Burgesses and Inhabitants, stating that the Court of Session had reduced the elections of 1722 and 1723.      | Election to be made of Counsellors and Magistrates, according to the set or constitution, by the poll of all the Burgesses who bear scot and lot, taking the oaths prescribed by law. |

*Places.*

These resolutions of the burgesses, however, do not seem to have intimidated those who were authorised by the warrant of the Prince Regent,

3 K

| <i>Places.</i>                                    | <i>Dates.</i>  | <i>Reason for Granting.</i>                                                                                                                                                                                 | <i>Form of Grant.</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|---------------------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 16. Dysart,<br><i>Poll Election.</i>              | July 6, 1725.  | Petition of Burgesses &c. stating, that the C. of S. had reduced the election of two sets of Magistrates.                                                                                                   | Election to be made of Magistrates and Counsellors, by a poll of the Burgesses.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 17. Jedburgh,<br><i>Poll Election.</i>            | July 31, 1733. | Petition of Burgesses &c. stating, that the C. of S. and House of Lords had reduced the election of two sets of Magistrates.                                                                                | Poll election by all the Burgesses and Inhabitants of the borough.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 18. Perth,<br><i>Old Magistrates to elect.</i>    | May 28, 1746.  | Petition of late Magistrates, &c. stating that they had been driven from the town by the rebels at last election, and petition of the Burgesses, &c.                                                        | The Magistrates and Council who served for last year authorised, on 9th June, 1746, to proceed to election of Magistrates and Council, to serve till the time of the annual election, in such manner as they ought to have done, if not disturbed by the rebels, &c.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 19. Montrose,<br><i>Old Magistrates to elect.</i> | June 16, 1746. | Similar petitions as in the case of Perth, No. 18.                                                                                                                                                          | Similar order as in the case of Perth, No. 18.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 20. Edinburgh,<br><i>Poll Election.</i>           | June 16, 1746. | Petition of Committee of General Meeting of Burgesses who had been Magistrates and Counsellors, stating, that last Michaelmas election could not be held, the city having been in possession of the rebels. | The 14 incorporations of crafts to meet on 14th Nov. next, to choose their deacons for the ensuing year, 6 to be elected part of the ordinary council of 25, the other 8 to be extraordinary deacons and council for the year ensuing; the said 6 deacons out of the 14, the Magistrates and others of the ordinary council of 25, to be by the Burgesses, &c. residing within the town and suburbs, (excluding honorary Burgesses, &c.) the Magistrates, &c. elected by the majority to continue till the usual time of election. |

*Places.*



Regent, to make and complete the election. On Wednesday the 23d of September, being the day fixed for the purpose, the magistrates and counsellors who had retired from office at Michaelmas, 1817,

| <i>Places.</i>                                                                    | <i>Dates.</i>                                                                  | <i>Reason for Granting.</i>                                                                                                                     | <i>Form of Grant.</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 21. Aberdeen,<br><i>Same persons who might have elected to make the election.</i> | May 28, 1746.                                                                  | Petition of the Governors of the City appointed by his R. H. the D. of Cumberland, stating that last election had been disturbed by the rebels. | The same persons who might have elected the Magistrates, Counsellors, &c. at Michaelmas last, to make or complete the election of Magistrates, &c. to serve in the said city till the ordinary time of election.                                    |
| 22. Brechin,<br><i>Old Magistrates to elect.</i>                                  | June 16, 1746.                                                                 | Petition of the late Magistrates, &c. stating that last Election had been disturbed by the rebels.                                              | The Magistrates and Council who served for last year authorised to proceed to the election of Magistrates, and to finish what had been left undone at last election.                                                                                |
| 23. Linlithgow,<br><i>Poll Election.</i>                                          | May 4, 1759.                                                                   | Two Petitions from the Borough, stating, that double elections of Magistrates, &c. had been reduced by the C. of S. and House of Lords.         | The 8 corporations to assemble and elect their 8 deacons, to make part of the ordinary council of 27. The Magistrates, office bearers, and 12 merchant counsellors, to be elected by the Burgesses and Tradesmen, excluding honorary Burgesses, &c. |
| 24. Dingwall,<br><i>Poll Election.</i>                                            | Aug. 26, 1760.<br>The return made opposed by council.                          | Petitions from two sets of Burgesses, stating, that the Magistracy had been dissolved by the C. of S.                                           | The Burgesses and Heritors (excluding honorary Burgesses) to assemble and elect fit persons to be Magistrates and Counsellors.                                                                                                                      |
| 25. Inverkeithing<br><i>Poll Election.</i>                                        | May 12, 1766.<br>The return opposed by one petition, and supported by another. | Petition of Burgesses stating that the C. of S. had, in 1761, reduced a double election.                                                        | The Burgesses (excluding honorary Burgesses, &c.) to assemble, and elect fit persons to be Magistrates & Counsellors.                                                                                                                               |
| 26. Pittenweem,<br><i>Poll Election.</i>                                          | June 26, 1767.<br>The return opposed by petition.                              | Petitions of two sets of Burgesses, stating, that the Michaelmas election, 1765, had been reduced by the C. of S.                               | The Burgesses resident on the 10th Sept. 1765, bearing a part of the public burdens, (excluding honorary burgesses, &c.) to elect Magistrates and Counsellors, &c.                                                                                  |

*Places.*

1817, assembled in the town hall, and proceeded to the nomination of the new council, according to the terms of the warrant.

The following gentlemen were chosen magistrates, counsellors, and office bearers of the borough, for the year, from that date to Michaelmas, 1819 :—

ALEXANDER BREBNER, Esq. of LAIRNEY,  
*Lord Provost.*

|                       |   |                  |
|-----------------------|---|------------------|
| Alexander Galen, Esq. | } | <i>Baillies.</i> |
| Charles Walker, Esq.  |   |                  |
| James Milne, Esq.     |   |                  |
| John Young, Esq.      |   |                  |

3 K 2

Alexander

| <i>Places.</i>                                     | <i>Dates.</i>                                     | <i>Reason for Granting.</i>                                                                                                                                                      | <i>Form of Grant.</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 27. Anstruther<br>Wester,<br><i>Poll Election.</i> | June 26, 1767.<br>Petition opposed<br>by Council. | Petitions in similar<br>terms with those of<br>Pittenweem, No. 26.                                                                                                               | Order similar to the above, in<br>the case of Pittenweem, No. 26.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 28. Jedburgh,<br><i>Poll Election.</i>             | May 4, 1774.                                      | Petition of the Bur-<br>gesses, stating, that<br>the Michaelmas Elec-<br>tion, 1767, had been<br>reduced by the C. of S.                                                         | The Burgesses and Inhabi-<br>tants, qualified according to<br>law, to assemble and elect, by<br>poll, Magistrates and Council.                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 29. Stirling,<br><i>Poll Election.</i>             | May 23, 1781.                                     | Petition of Burges-<br>ses, stating, that the<br>Michaelmas Election,<br>1773, had been re-<br>duced by the C. of S.<br>and the judgment af-<br>firmed by the House<br>of Lords. | The Burgesses and Trades<br>(excluding honorary Burgesses,<br>&c.) to assemble and elect fit<br>persons, not exceeding 21 in<br>number, to be Magistrates and<br>Town Council.<br>An alteration also made of<br>the set of the borough.                                                                                     |
| 30. Montrose,<br><i>Poll Election.</i>             | Sept. 7, 1817.                                    | Petition of Guild<br>Brethren, Burgesses,<br>Trades, &c. stating,<br>that the Michaelmas<br>Election had been re-<br>duced by the Court of<br>Session.                           | The Guild Brethren, Trades,<br>and Inhabitant Burgesses, who<br>resided in the borough at and<br>previous to Michaelmas, 1816,<br>(excluding honorary Burgesses,<br>&c.) to assemble and elect fit<br>persons, 19 in number, to be<br>Magistrates and Counsellors.<br>An alteration also made in<br>the set of the borough. |

Alexander Brown, Esq. *Dean of Guild.*

Alexander Duthie, Esq. *Treasurer.*

Mr. Alexander Mackie, *Master of Shore Works.*

Mr. John Collison, *Master of Kirk and Bridge Works.*

Mr. Charles Fyfe, *Master of Mortifications.*

Mr. Andrew Duncan, *Master of Guild Brethren's Hospital.*

*Merchant Counsellors.*

Alexander Fraser, Esq.

Alexander Hadden, Esq.

William Johnston, Esq.

James Hadden, jun. Esq.

James Smith, Esq.

William Duguid, jun. Esq.

*Trades Counsellors.*

George Gibb,

David Marshall.



# A P P E N D I X.

---

## No. I.

### MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE INHABITANTS OF ABERDEEN.

~~~~~  
Referred to in page 350.
~~~~~

In a General Meeting of the inhabitants of Aberdeen possessing houses, &c. rated at L.5 sterling of yearly rent, and upwards, held in the public Court House of Aberdeen, the 26th day of February, 1799, at 12 o'clock noon, in consequence of an advertisement from the Commissioners of Police for the city of Aberdeen, acting under authority of an act of parliament passed in the year 1795, entitled, "An act for the better paving, lighting, cleansing, and otherwise improving the streets, lanes, and other public passages of the city of Aberdeen, and the roads and avenues within the royalty thereof; for the better supplying the inhabitants with fresh water, and for the removing and preventing all obstructions and annoyances within the said city and royalty,"—Present, Theophilus Ogilvie, Esq.; James Bishop, merchant; George Petrie, merchant; John Jameson, merchant; John Ross, baker; John Gill, merchant; John Clark, flax-dresser; Robert Balmanno, auctioneer; Adam Singer, merchant; Baillie Littlejohn; John Johnston, merchant; John Dingwall, Esq.; Adam Wilson, merchant; Baillie Garden; Garden and Innes; George Angus, watchmaker; William Raitt, merchant; Alexander Booth, merchant; William Dingwall Fordyce, advocate; Robert Gibb, merchant; George Roger, goldsmith; John Paull, merchant; John Robertson, glazier; Thomas Black, merchant; Charles Walker, merchant; Dr. Henderson; Alexander Brown, bookseller; James Staats Forbes, merchant; James Coutts, shoemaker; William Dalmahoy, shoemaker; Andrew Hall, flesher; James Anderson, perfumer; Andrew Hay, merchant; William Gray, hairdresser; Donald McDonald, tailor; Thomas Burnett, advocate; Baillie Duguid; Andrew Jopp, advocate; Alexander Scott, upholsterer; John Low, advocate; John Gartly, watchmaker; Alexander Marr, vintner; William Gordon, vintner; John Lumsden, turner; Alexander Walker, skinner; John Allan, goldsmith; William Cowie, saddler; Stephen Masson, merchant; Robert Smith, merchant; Alexander Shirrefs, advocate; Alexander Smith, jun. merchant; George Still, merchant; William Leslie, merchant; George Sim, merchant; David Webster, weaver; Charles Lunan, watchmaker; Alexander Forbes, stabler; William Wright, stabler; Patrick Henderson, clerk; Mr. Martin of Nellfield; John Watson, advocate; Fraser and Mole, merchants; John Alexander, shoemaker; Robert Troup, merchant; Adam Watt, baker; Provost Leys; Robert Gibbon, merchant; William Johnston; James Webster, merchant; Marianus Massie, hosier; Alexander Robertson, merchant; James Thomson, cashier; John Ewen, merchant; George Courage, ale-seller; James Melvin, merchant; Mr. Carnegie, town-clerk; Walter Syme, Esq.; Alexander Brebner, Esq.; James Nielson, merchant; Patrick Scott, mason.

mason; William Forbes, merchant; Robert Bruce, shipmaster; Samuel Gordon, mason; Arthur Gibbon, shipmaster; David Walker, shipmaster; George Tower, merchant; George Hogarth, merchant; William Copland, advocate; Mr. Thomas Bannerman, merchant; James Hadden, merchant; William Still, jun. cooper; Robert Grant; James Matthews, shoemaker; George Daniel, merchant; John Mitchell, merchant; Joseph Alexander, glover; William Stirling, advocate; Thomas Duncan, advocate; Lewis Nicol, hairdresser; George Symmers, merchant; George Thomson, merchant; John Low, tailor; John Bruce and Son, merchants; Alexander Ross, youngest, merchant; James Bartlet, merchant; James Thomson, jun. merchant; George Smith, glazier; John Barron, watchmaker; William Simpson, merchant; Dr. Dauncey; James Leslie, auctioneer; Baillie Adam; Henry Brodie, shoemaker; George Taylor, shoemaker; William Matthews, shoemaker; Alexander Tytler, shoemaker; John Fraser, shoemaker; Robert Spring, baker; William Mackie, wright; Peter Farquharson, advocate; Baillie Ritchie; Mr. Gordon of Premnay; Dr. Skene; James Ferguson, manufacturer; George Duncan, wright; Baillie Shepherd; Provost More; Baillie Murray; John Donald, hosier; Baillie Farquharson; Moses Tough, painter; James Milne, merchant; Arthur Farquhar, shoemaker; Charles Farquharson, auctioneer; William Dawson, taylor; James Mellis, merchant; Convener James Clark, tailor; Samuel Chalmers, merchant; Joseph Simpson, merchant; George Craig, shoemaker; Chalmers and Stuart, merchants; George Wright, merchant; William Anderson, gardener; John Gordon of Craig; James Milne, Porthill factory; Ebenezer Murray, merchant; Provost Abercrombie; James Smith, flax-dresser; Patrick Simpson, hosier; Alexander Dingwall, jun. merchant; William Lumsden, merchant; William Roger, glazier; Mr. Brand, bank; Hugh Imlay, shoemaker; John Wallace, baker; David McAllan, shoemaker; John Garvock, staymaker; Charles Bannerman, advocate; William Still, cooper; William Jamieson, advocate; Alexander Mearns, hosier; Charles McHardie, merchant; William Johnston, merchant; John Falconer, cooper; Alexander Barron, baker; John Smith, youngest, merchant; David Morice, advocate; Baillie Burnett; John Strachan, upholsterer; Hary Lumsden, advocate; Gavin Hadden, merchant; Robert Walker, manufacturer; John Henderson of Caskieben; John Wilson, hosier; Thomas McCombie, merchant; Joseph Berry, weaver; Andrew Simpson, merchant; William Gibbon, jun. merchant; Thomas Napier, land-surveyor.

Thomas Leys, Esq. of Glasgowforest, provost of Aberdeen, was elected preses of this meeting, and Alexander Shirrefs and John Low, advocates in Aberdeen, to be clerks thereto.

The commissioners of police, being called upon to explain to the meeting their intentions in calling the same, referred to their printed address to the public, and estimates thereto subjoined, and to the advertisement published by them in the Aberdeen Journal of the 11th, 18th, and 25th current, of which advertisement the tenor follows, viz.:—" *Police-office, Aberdeen, 8th February, 1799.* The commissioners of police for the city of Aberdeen, elected and authorised, in terms of an act of parliament passed in the year 1795, referring to their address to the inhabitants, of date 10th November, 1798, to which estimates were annexed, do hereby appoint a general meeting of the qualified electors, paying rents of L.5 sterling and upwards, in the public court-house of this city, on Tuesday the 26th instant, at 12 o'clock noon, to determine by ballot on the two following questions:—I. If, or not, an assessment of one shilling and sixpence in the pound rent shall be imposed on all subjects liable in assessment by the present act, for the space of seven years, from and after the period of the said meeting, and that in reference to an estimate for finishing the improvements, for obtaining a farther supply of spring water in the upper and lower water-courses, building a reservoir, and distributing the water in public wells to the utmost extent of which it is capable, for the service of the inhabitants in the different streets and lanes within the royalty, as well as to supply the same with a sufficient number of fire-pipes and cocks, with such other improvements, to which the sum levied shall be found equal.

“ II. If

“ II. If, or not, application shall be made to parliament for a renewal of the present act, but with the difference only of raising the assessment to one shilling and sixpence in the pound rent, and rendering the same perpetual, and that with a view of extending the improvements specified in the act to all the districts within the royalty.

“ The commissioners, in thus addressing themselves to the public, are actuated solely by a sense of public duty, and what they conceive to be a very general desire in the inhabitants. Without the most distant view of giving an undue bias to public opinion, they may be permitted to observe, that, if the determination shall be made in favour of the first proposition, the expence of an application to parliament will be saved. The improvements, indeed, must be carried on in a manner comparatively slow in this case, and directed chiefly, in the first instance to the very necessary and important article of water ; but, considering what has been already done with the sum of L.3000 borrowed, L.700 of which was paid for the expence of obtaining the act, the commissioners are decidedly of opinion, that, observing the same system of economy, much may be done even by means of the aid of what the first proposition will produce.

“ If the second proposal shall, however, be adopted, not only the improvements in water, but all the others may be accomplished with all possible expedition, and the more immediate advantages will be generally felt. Whether, then, it shall be deemed best to try the experiment of the additional assessment for a limited period, without incurring the expense of a new act, which, if this experiment should even fail, may still be afterwards resorted to, or apply at once to parliament for a perpetual act, is the single question, on this occasion, in which the public interest is concerned, and on which they are called to form their determination.

“ It is surely unnecessary to add, that if any elector should disapprove of both propositions, he may certainly so express himself in the ballot, as the commissioners can have no object in view, but to be guided solely by the opinion of the community.

“ To the considerate and candid decision of the electors, therefore, the business is thus, in the utmost confidence, submitted.”

After which, sundry objections having been stated by a member of the meeting against the necessity or expediency of the additional assessment proposed, and these objections having been seconded, and the commissioners of police heard in answer, the meeting were unanimously of opinion, that it is not expedient at present to authorise any new assessment for the purposes mentioned in the advertisements ; but that, as the making further alterations and enlargements of the present streets, roads, and avenues, and the opening of others, may be necessary and useful, it should be remitted to a committee of this meeting, to consider what roads, streets, &c. it may be necessary to alter or enlarge, and what new ones it may be proper to open, what further supply of water, and all other necessary improvements are wanted ; to procure plans thereof, and estimates of the expense, and to report their opinion upon the whole, with such plans and estimates as they may obtain, to a meeting to be held in this place, on or before Monday the 1st day of July next. And that such committee should be requested to examine the present state of the funds under the management of the commissioners of police, and to report their opinion as to these, and as to the proper mode of providing a further efficient fund for carrying such plans as may be approved of into execution ; and that the commissioners of police be requested to give the committee such information on these points as may be wanted.

For the purposes aforesaid, the meeting did, and do hereby name the following gentlemen to be a committee ; thirteen to be a quorum, and Provost Leys to be convener of the meeting, viz.—

Thomas

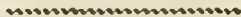


|                                                   |                                                |
|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Thomas Leys, Esq. provost of Aberdeen             | Mr. Alexander Brebner, merchant                |
| Alexander Moir, Esq. of Scotstown, sheriff-depute | Mr. John Ewen, merchant                        |
| Mr. John Dingwall, merchant                       | Mr. Robert Gibbon, merchant                    |
| Mr. Charles Bannerman, advocate                   | Mr. James Hadden, merchant                     |
| Alexander Allardyce, Esq. M. P.                   | Mr. Gavin Hadden, merchant, and dean of guild  |
| Dr. Skene                                         | Mr. Gordon of Premnay                          |
| Mr. Thomas Bannerman, merchant                    | Provost More                                   |
| Mr. Alexander Milne, merchant                     | Mr. James Thomson, junior, merchant            |
| John Henderson, Esq. of Caskieben                 | Mr. Alexander Shirrefs, advocate               |
| Alexander Martin of Nellfield                     | Mr. Adam Wilson, merchant                      |
| Dr. Dingwall Fordyce, commissary                  | Rev. Dr. Brown, principal of Marischal College |
| Mr. Hary Lumsden, advocate                        | Professor Copland                              |
| Provost Abercrombie                               | Mr. Copland, town-clerk-depute                 |
| Mr. George Craig, convener of the trades          | Baillie Littlejohn                             |
| Mr. George Smith, master of trades' hospital      | Mr. William Michie, wright                     |
| Mr. Adam Watt, baker                              | Dr. Dauney                                     |
| Mr. David Morice, advocate                        | George Ogilvie, Esq. comptroller of customs    |
| Mr. Carnegie, town-clerk                          | Baillie William Shepherd                       |

Thereafter, the thanks of the meeting were voted to Provost Leys for his very proper conduct in the chair. And, upon a motion from a member present, the thanks of the meeting were also voted to the commissioners of police, for the trouble they have taken in the matters under their management since they have been in office.

(Signed)

THOS. LEYS, Preses.



At an adjourned general meeting of the inhabitants of Aberdeen, possessing houses, &c. rated for police-tax at five pounds sterling of yearly rent and upwards, held in the public court-house, upon Monday the first day of July, 1799, in consequence of advertisements published in the Aberdeen Journal, of which Thomas Leys, Esq. provost of Aberdeen, was unanimously elected preses.

The committee named by the general meeting, held here the 26th of February last, to consider what roads, streets, &c. it might be necessary to alter or enlarge, and what new ones it might be proper to open; also, what further supply of water, and other necessary improvements, might appear to be wanted within and about the town; to procure plans and estimates of the expense thereof; and to report their opinion of the whole, along with such plans and estimates as they might obtain, to a meeting to be held in the same place, on or before Monday the first day of July next,—

Reported, That they had frequently met, and deliberately considered the sundry important objects, specified in the remit, and for facilitating, as well as expediting the whole of the business, had divided themselves into sub-committees, for the more particularly examining what the committee considered to be the principal and most essential objects committed to them, viz. the two new avenues or streets proposed to be opened from the south and north country into Castle-street, according to the plan and delineation thereof, made out by Mr. Charles Abercrombie, surveyor; and the better and more abundant supply of the inhabitants with fresh water. That the committee had obtained from Mr. Colin Innes, surveyor, an actual and accurate survey of the said two intended avenues, both to the south and north, according to Mr. Abercrombie's original plan; and that after walking over  
along

along with him, and deliberately considering the line of both, according to the separate plans thereof now approved of by him and Mr. Innes, the committee are unanimously of opinion, that the proposed new avenues or streets, both from the south and north, should be carried into execution according to the said plans, as being not only most commodious for the public in general, but also as being more adapted to extend, open up, and beautify the town, than any other lines of road which have yet been proposed: while there is every reason to expect that they may be executed without ultimately burdening the inhabitants with the expense; as the committee are induced to believe, from the information they have obtained, that these desirable improvements would finally reimburse the expense of their execution.

The two plans are now laid before the meeting as relative hereto.

With respect to the south avenue or entry, the committee have had frequent meetings and communications with the heritors and occupiers of the houses and grounds along the course of it, from the top of the Windmill-brae, eastward, to Castle-street, and have procured from a very considerable part of them their voluntary consent and agreement to dispoise and give off the whole, or such part of their respective properties, as may be found necessary for the purpose of executing the new street, including building areas to the extent in whole of 160 feet in breadth, upon such terms as the committee consider to be fair and equitable, particularly the Marischal college, the Trades' hospital, and incorporation of hammermen, according to the subscription of the parties herewith also given in; that some others of the proprietors had proposed the immediate sale of their property at certain fixed prices, but which the committee did not think themselves authorised to accept of. That the committee do not, in this stage of the business, think it expedient to cause any particular valuation be made of the houses, and other heritage, which may be necessary to be purchased for the execution of this street; but, from the best information they have received, it may amount to about L.20,000.

With respect to the north avenue or entry proposed, the committee, upon examination, find, that the proprietors along the course thereof are inclined to dispose of their properties upon fair and liberal terms, although the committee have not applied to them to subscribe any written agreement to that effect, owing to their having but very lately received Mr. Innes's plan. And to the general expense of its execution, the committee are satisfied, that, in proportion to the very great accommodation which will accrue both to the public and proprietors along its course, it will be, comparatively with the south avenue, inconsiderable, especially after examining the ruinous state and situation of most of the tenements that fall within the line of this road.

It is with great satisfaction the committee farther observe, that, in recommending these new openings, they only revive what have been desirable objects with the inhabitants of Aberdeen, on former occasions, and which, indeed, have been attended to in the present existing law, for the better paving, &c. the streets of this city, in a very particular manner. And when they compare the present improved state of Edinburgh, Glasgow, and even Perth, with Aberdeen, they cannot help expressing some regret that the execution has been so long retarded.

As to water, the committee, after deliberating fully on the subject, and taking into consideration the result of the enquiries and experiments they have caused to be made, are unanimously of opinion, that the present supply is not fully adequate to the service of the inhabitants, nor to what the increasing taste for cleanliness and elegance requires, much less to what would be wanted for any considerable additional number of inhabitants; and which, from the now flourishing state of trade and manufactures, there is reason soon to expect. That in the present mode of distribution, although of late considerably improved, there are several parts of the city, within the reach of delivery, without a supply; while there are others, above the elevation, to which none of the present courses would rise:—That the former of these situations is that extensive track from the Woolmanhill to Little

Belmont-street inclusive, and which might be furnished with at least a partial supply from the old or upper course, leaving, at the same time, what is supposed would be sufficient for those parts which have their supply from that course. And, as the expense of laying a pipe, &c. for this temporary relief, would not, from the estimates which have been given in, exceed the sum of L.150 sterling, and may be executed in the space of a few weeks, the committee have taken the liberty of suggesting to the commissioners of police the propriety of giving directions for executing this work with all convenient speed, as being a measure contributing essentially to the convenience of so large and respectable a part of the community; and with respect to the more abundant supply, for furnishing such persons as may be desirous of having water delivered from the main by private pipes into their houses, the committee have caused a subscription-paper to be sent round among the inhabitants, in order to ascertain their sentiments, as to availing themselves of the benefit of that accommodation, at an annual sum not exceeding thirty shillings each, over and above the expense of introducing the water into their houses from the main, after it is laid in the street, and under such other regulations and conditions as may be fixed upon by a majority of the subscribers, or a committee to be elected by them: and that a considerable number of subscriptions to this purpose have already been obtained; and so far as they have been able to learn, the scheme meets with very general approbation among the inhabitants.

It appears to the committee to embrace two desirable objects; first, to afford the inhabitants an accommodation at a charge perfectly voluntary, and, when compared with the advantages, but inconsiderable; and, next, to put the attainment of that accommodation in the power of every inhabitant without distinction, on fair and liberal principles; with this farther advantage, that it neither diminishes the funds applicable to the present supplies of water, nor increases the consumption; but, on the contrary, evidently tends to reduce it, and thereby rather add to the accommodation of the poorer class of inhabitants.

The committee have had little opportunity, as yet, of investigating the expenditure of the funds, under the management of the commissioners, for the better paving, &c. this city; but such information as they have obtained satisfies them that it has been done with strict economy and attention. But as this committee have not yet learned the views of the commissioners, as to extending, improving, or altering in any manner the existing law, the committee have not applied their attention to the consideration of that part of the remit.

The committee are sensible that the foregoing report is not so complete as they could have wished or expected to have rendered it in a short time; but they thought it incumbent on them, against the time appointed, to acquaint their constituents with the progress they had made, in the hope that what is already done will in part meet the wishes of the meeting, and furnish some materials for prosecuting the business.

If the meeting are pleased to adopt the plans that are suggested, the committee beg leave to recommend the appointment of another, for continuing what has been begun, and so far carried on by the former, for considering the most proper means of procuring the temporary advance of the sums necessary for the undertakings; to give the necessary notices in terms of the orders of the House of Commons; and to prepare a draught of a bill for the requisite act of parliament, framed so as to specify its purposes, and to leave little more than the execution to the commissioners to be named under it; which draught, with a report, the committee should be instructed to lay before a meeting, to be held on or before the second Monday of September next, that, in case the same is approved of, there may be time to apply to parliament next session, for having it passed into a law.

And the said report having been deliberately considered by the meeting, they unanimously approve thereof, and resolve that the same shall be printed for the information of the inhabitants; and,  
in



in order that no time may be lost, in advancing the great and essential improvements recommended by the report, the meeting do hereby of new name and continue the same committee of gentlemen reporters, for carrying into execution what is suggested in the report, and whom the meeting hereby invest with full powers for that purpose.

And they request the committee will bestow their immediate and further attention to the different objects now in view, so as to be enabled to furnish, not only the specific particulars of the different branches and plans, but also estimates, as nearly as possible, of the general expense of carrying the same into effect, with a draught of the bill for the requisite act of parliament, for the information of this meeting, and all others concerned, on or before the second Monday of September next.

And the meeting recommended to such individuals as may have any information to communicate to the committee, that they will do so under their proper signatures or names only, so that the committee may have an opportunity of conversing with them on the subject of such information, if they find it necessary, and this meeting are unanimously of opinion, that no regard or attention whatever ought to be paid to any anonymous writing, or to communications under fictitious signatures.

The meeting unanimously return their best thanks to Provost Leys, and the other gentlemen of the committee, for their great attention and perseverance in this business, and also to Provost Leys, for calling the same, and for his proper conduct in the chair this day.

(Signed)

THOMAS LEYS, Preses.

~~~~~

At an adjourned general meeting of the inhabitants of Aberdeen, possessing houses, &c. rated for police-tax at five pounds sterling of yearly rent and upwards, held in the public court-house, upon Tuesday the 17th day of September, 1799, in consequence of advertisements published in the Aberdeen Journal, of which Thomas Leys, Esq. provost of Aberdeen, was unanimously elected preses:—

Provost Leys reported, “ That, agreeably to the appointment of the general meeting, the committee had lost no time in bestowing their attention on the different objects recommended to them.

“ That Mr. Charles Abercrombie, surveyor, having been in town lately, they had obtained from him estimates of the general expense of forming and opening the two proposed new streets from the south and north, to communicate with Castle-street: That the expense of executing the south street, or entry, including the building of four bridges, with the necessary embankments, amounts in whole to L.6493 6s. 8d., and the expense of the north entry, L.625 3s. 4d., conform to Mr. Abercrombie's estimates now on the table.

“ That the committee had also calculated, as nearly as they could, the probable expense of the purchase of the necessary property for the execution of the south entry, from Castle-street to the east side of the Denburn, which, they were of opinion, would amount to L.30,000.

“ That they had not made any minute calculation of the expense of purchasing the necessary property for the execution of the north entry; but, from the view they have formed of it, it will be comparatively small.

“ That as a fund for answering a part of the expense of executing the south entry, the committee find, upon considering the plan which has been made out, that 90 stances for houses of 30 feet in front by 50 feet deep each, will be obtained betwixt Shiprow and the Denburn, which, at a moderate calculation of L.300 each at a medium, will amount to L.27,000, leaving only a balance of L.3000 to

be provided for, besides interest of money and incidental expences, which the committee are of opinion may be raised from the sale of stances of ground, on the new street, to the westward of the Denburn and Dove-cot brae, not included in the above estimate, and which they are of opinion will be fully sufficient for the purpose.

“ That, for answering the expense of executing the north entry, the committee find, on examining, that about 60 stances for houses, from the north side of Castle-street to the new slaughter-market, will be obtained, allowing 30 feet in front by 50 feet deep for each stance, which, estimating at a moderate rate, will be fully adequate to the purpose.

“ That, in a work of this kind, where no tax whatever is proposed to be raised, a temporary advance of a large sum of money must be obtained, and the committee, being satisfied that it will be ultimately reimbursed, are of opinion, that the most proper mode of raising such a sum is, for the town-council to interpose the credit of the community; and that it should be recommended to that body to do so accordingly, under the authority of an act of parliament to be obtained for that purpose.

“ That in this view the committee have formed a draught of a bill to parliament, for enabling the trustees to purchase the necessary property for the streets, and building areas, upon fair and equitable terms, such as have been already agreed to by a great many proprietors; which bill is now given in, and submitted to the meeting: And the committee have also caused give the necessary notices, agreeably to the standing orders of the House of Commons; so that matters are ripe for an act being applied for, on the sitting of parliament, if the scheme meets with approbation.

“ With respect to water, the committee are still of opinion, that the present supply is not sufficiently ample for the accommodation of the inhabitants, and that the Hazlehead springs, which are so abundant, and of so excellent a quality, ought to be brought into town, so as to furnish a sufficient quantity for the use of such persons as may wish to have water delivered from the main by private pipes into their houses. That, by the estimates which have been obtained, it appears that the expense of collecting, bringing to town, and distributing these springs into mains through the streets, may amount to about L.4500; and as the magistrates and council are by the present police act now invested with powers for bringing in the above springs for this purpose, the committee are of opinion, that it should be earnestly recommended by this meeting to the town council to carry the measure into execution as speedily as possible, being fully persuaded that the revenue which will be raised on this account, at a moderate rate, from persons who may wish to avail themselves of the accommodation of a private pipe, will be fully adequate to answer the expence.”

Which report, and draught of the proposed bill, having been read to, and deliberately considered by the meeting, they unanimously approve thereof, and of the different objects recommended. And they request, that the lord provost will take an early opportunity of laying the report and draught of the proposed bill before the town council, with the unanimous and earnest request of this meeting, that they will take the proper measures for carrying the same forthwith into effect, both as to opening the proposed new streets, and bringing into town the water of the Hazlehead springs, for supplying private pipes to such inhabitants as may desire to have the benefit thereof; and, thereafter, that they will order the minutes of this meeting, along with the report and draught of the proposed bill, to be printed and distributed, for the information of all concerned.

Thereafter, resolved unanimously, That the cordial thanks of this meeting be given to the lord provost for his conduct in the chair, in testimony of the sense the community entertain of his unwearied exertions in promoting the foregoing measures, which will tend so much to improve and beautify this city, and be attended with the greatest utility and accommodation to its inhabitants, and the public at large.

Resolved

Resolved also, unanimously, That the thanks of the meeting be given to the gentlemen of the committee, for the great attention and trouble they have bestowed on the matters remitted to their consideration.

(Signed)

THOMAS LEYS, Preses.

[*Appendix to the Duplies for Robert Garden, and others, in the case of John Elphinston, No. III.*]

EXTRACTS OF ACTS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF ABERDEEN,

RESPECTING THE

NEW STREETS, OR ENTRIES TO THE TOWN.

29th July, 1796.—Sederunt—George More, Esq. Provost; Baillies Copland and Ritchie; Mr. Lumsden, Treasurer; Provost Abercrombie, Baillie Duguid, James Thomson, Arthur Milner, William Johnston, and Convener Clark.

The said day the provost laid before the council an extract of a minute and resolution of a general meeting of the trustees under the turnpike act, for the county of Aberdeen, together with a minute of a committee named by the said general meeting, and which are of the following tenor, viz. :
 “*Aberdeen, 30th April, 1796.*—At the stated general meeting of the trustees under the turnpike act, for the county of Aberdeen.—The meeting considering that, by the act of parliament for making and repairing certain roads in this county, the magistrates of Aberdeen are bound to make and keep in good and sufficient repair the road between the town and bridge of Dee, on which condition no toll can be exacted on said road; and considering further, that the present track of said road, by Newbridge and the Bowbridge, is acknowledged, on all hands, to be highly improper, and the entry to the town thereby, through steep, narrow, and angular streets, extremely inconvenient; and being satisfied that the justices of peace, commissioners of supply of the county, and trustees under the said act, are entitled to ascertain and mark out the track or direction of said road; and being desirous to have the same conducted in the best and most beneficial direction for the town and county of Aberdeen, that it may be made without delay, do, therefore, hereby nominate and appoint the Earl of Aboyne, Alexander Moir of Scotstown, Alexander Irvine of Drum, George Skene of Skene, John Menzies of Pitfodels, Captain Henderson of Newton, Mr. Charles Bannerman, advocate, Archibald Grant, younger, of Monymusk, and John Durno of Catie, as a committee, of which Alexander Irvine of Drum shall be convener; with full power to them, or any three of their number, to meet at such time or times as they shall judge proper; and to employ Mr. Abercrombie to make a plan, and mark upon the ground such a track as he judges most proper for the accommodation of the town and county of Aberdeen, and to report the same to the above committee, who are hereby authorised to carry the same into execution. And, for that purpose, to point out the same to the magistrates of Aberdeen, and require them, within such a reasonable period as shall be judged proper by the said committee, or their said quorum, to purchase the ground necessary, and make the foresaid road, in the same good and sufficient manner as a turnpike road south of the river Dee. And in case it shall be necessary to ascertain the value of any houses or ground in the track of the foresaid road by jury, the said committee and their quorum are hereby invested with the whole authority of the commissioners under the foresaid act of parliament, with full power to them and their said quorum,

rum, in conjunction with the magistrates, or otherwise, to take whatever measures are proper or necessary for valuing such ground or houses, and accomplishing all the purposes of this appointment. The meeting appointed the clerk to transmit a copy of the above minutes, by to-morrow's post, to Mr. Abercrombie, requesting that he will lose no time in coming north, in order to make the above plan. *Extracted from the Sederunt Book of the Trustees.—Signed, THO. BURNETT.*" (Then follows the minutes of the meeting of the committee, dated 11th July, 1796, and also a copy of Mr. Abercrombie's letter to the clerk.) And the council having deliberately considered the foregoing minutes, together with Mr. Abercrombie's plan and report, and having also seen and considered the turnpike act for this county, are unanimously of opinion, that the trustees under the said act are not thereby authorised to ascertain and mark out and require the magistrates of Aberdeen to make any particular track or direction of road between the town of Aberdeen and the bridge of Dee, which they, the trustees, may judge proper, or to purchase the ground necessary for this purpose: because, by the clause in the act, exempting this piece of road from payment of toll, the council are bound only to keep the same in good and sufficient repair; but are under no obligation, in order to obtain this exemption, to make out any new line, without their own consent. And with regard to the plan proposed by Mr. Abercrombie, by the Dovecot brae, the council are also unanimously of opinion, that, although it may possess advantages very desirable to be obtained, yet the very great expense necessarily attending the carrying it into effect, particularly the purchase of private property after it enters the town till its junction with Castle-street, far exceeding what the funds of the community can afford, renders the scheme, at present, altogether impracticable. The council being, nevertheless, extremely desirous to obtain, on reasonable terms, a commodious approach to the town from the south, recommended to the magistrates to meet and confer on this important subject with the gentlemen of the county, or their committee, and endeavour to settle the present question in a way beneficial both to the town and county of Aberdeen, and to report the result of which conference to the council, for their consideration.

(Signed)

GEORGE MORE, Provost.

[*Council Register*, vol. lxvii. p. 119.]

25th March, 1799.—Sederunt—Provost Leys, and four Baillies, Dean of Guild, and Treasurer, Provost Yonng, Provost More, John Dingwall, Thomas Black, Alexander Fraser, Deacon Fraser, and Deacon Falconer.

The said day, the provost reported that the committee appointed by the general meeting of the inhabitants qualified for electing commissioners of police, at their meeting, held upon the 26th day of last month, for the general improvement and extension of the police of the town, had held several meetings for the purpose of considering the most effectual and expeditious method of carrying into execution the proposed new street, or avenue to the town, from the top of the Dovecot brae, through Saint Katharine's hill to the Castle-street, according to Mr. Abercrombie's plan, in which the committee had made some progress, and framed a subscription paper, intended to be signed by the heritors through whose property the proposed new street will pass, for their approbation of the measure, and agreeing to dispose of their respective properties at a fair and reasonable price, and that they found that several of the houses and grounds along the course of the said new street belonged to the treasurer, and other of the town's office bearers, part of which had been originally purchased for the purpose of forwarding the said plan, particularly the houses and garden in the Shiprow,

row, belonging to the late Mr. Fraser of Fraserfield: And the council being desirous to do every thing in their power for promoting a measure of so great public benefit and utility, they authorise and empower the treasurer, and the master of kirk and bridge works and mortifications, and any other of the town's office bearers, who may be proprietors of houses and grounds along the said intended new road, to subscribe the said consent and agreement, along with the other heritors, according to the copy thereof, now laid before and approved of by the council.

(Signed) THOMAS LEYS, Provost.

~~~~~  
21st August, 1799.—Sederunt—Thomas Leys, Esq. Provost; the four Baillies, Dean of Guild, George Thomson, John Dingwall, Alexander Brebner, James Masson, Thomas Black, James Mackie, and Deacon Fraser.

The said day the provost laid before the council a printed copy of the minutes of a general meeting of the inhabitants, held upon the first of July last, upon the report of a committee appointed by a former meeting, relative to the opening and making out two new streets, or avenues, from the south and north country, into the Castle-street of Aberdeen, according to the plans, and delineation thereof, made out by Mr. Charles Abercrombie, surveyor, whereby the said committee reported their unanimous opinion, that the proposed new avenues or streets, both from the south and north, should be carried into execution, according to the said plans, as being not only most commodious for the public in general, but also as being more adapted to extend, open up, and beautify the town itself, than any other lines of road which have yet been proposed, while there was every reason to expect that they might be executed without ultimately burdening the inhabitants with the expense; as the committee were induced to believe, from the information they had obtained, that these desirable improvements would finally reimburse the expense of their execution. Which report having been considered by the said general meeting, they had unanimously approved thereof; and, in order that no time might be lost in advancing the great and essential improvements recommended by the report, did of new name and continue the same committee of gentlemen reporters, with full powers to consider the most proper means of procuring the temporary advance of the money necessary for carrying on the undertakings, recommend to give the necessary notices in the newspapers, in terms of the orders of the House of Commons, and to prepare a draught of a bill for the requisite act of parliament, framed so as to specify its purposes, and to leave little more than the execution, to the commissioners to be named under it. Which minutes and procedure of the said general meeting, and report of the committee therein referred to, having been heard, and deliberately considered by the council, they unanimously ratify and approve of the same, in so far as they are concerned, particularly the opening and making out of the said two new proposed streets, or avenues, as being a measure which they are satisfied will greatly tend to extend, enlarge, and beautify the town, and what has also been much desired and wanted by the inhabitants for several years past: And in order that no time may be lost in applying for and obtaining the proposed act of parliament during the ensuing session, the council authorise the magistrates, in their name, to cause notices to be published in the newspapers of the intention to apply for such an act, in terms of the standing orders of the House of Commons.

(Signed) THOMAS LEYS, Provost.

[*Council Register*, vol. lxvii. p. 216.]



18th September, 1799.—Sederunt—The Provost, Baillies Farquharson, Duguid, and Murray, Dean of Guild and Treasurer, John Dingwall, Provost Young, James Mason, Thomas Black, and Deacon Fraser.

The said day, the provost laid before the council the minutes of the general meeting of the inhabitants, rated for police tax at L.5 of rent and upwards, held in the public court-house yesterday, the 17th curt. proceeding upon the report of their committee, by which it appears that, from estimates they had procured from Mr. Abercrombie, surveyor, and other calculations they had made, that the expense of opening and making out the proposed new street, or avenue, from the town to the south, and the purchase of the necessary property for its execution, from the Castle-street to the east side of the Denburn, might amount, in whole, to about L.30,000 sterling; and that the execution of the proposed new north street, or entry, would be but comparatively small, including both opening and forming it, as well as the purchase of the necessary property: That, as a fund for answering as part of the above expense of the south entry, it appeared that ninety stances for houses, of thirty feet in front by fifty feet deep each, would be obtained, betwixt the Shiprow and the Denburn, which, estimated at L.300 each, upon a medium, would extend to L.27,000, leaving only a balance of L.3000 to be provided for, besides interest of money, and incidental expense; which balance may be raised, from the sale of stances of ground, to the westward of the Denburn and Dovecot brae, not included in the above estimate, and which, the committee were of opinion, would be fully sufficient for the purpose. That, for answering the expense of the north entry, it appeared, that about sixty stances for houses, thirty feet in front by fifty feet deep each, might be obtained, from the north side of the Castle-street towards the town's new slaughter market, which, estimated at a moderate rate, would be fully adequate for defraying the expense. That, in an extensive work of this kind, the committee were of opinion, that the most proper method of raising the sum necessary for its execution, would be, for the town council to interpose the credit of the community; and that it should be recommended to that body to do so accordingly, under the authority of an act of parliament, to be obtained for that purpose, a draught whereof had been made up and prepared by the committee, for the consideration of the general meeting.—(The minutes then enter upon the matter of the Hazlehead spring.)—Which report, above narrated, having been read to, and deliberately considered by the said general meeting, they unanimously approved thereof, and of the different objects thereby recommended, and requested that the lord provost would take an early opportunity of laying the same, with the draught of the proposed bill to parliament, before the town council, accompanied by the unanimous and earnest request of the general meeting, that the council would take the proper measures for carrying the same forthwith into effect; and that the council would order the minutes of said general meeting, along with the committee's report, and draught of the proposed bill, to be printed and distributed, for the information of all concerned. All which having been heard, and deliberately considered by the council, they unanimously approved of the important work, as recommended to them by the above general meeting of the inhabitants, and are of opinion that the town council should afford every aid in their power for promoting the same. But, in respect that the annual change of the magistrates and council will take place in a few days, they recommend to their successors as early as possible to take up and seriously consider the above objects, so earnestly recommended to them, and to take such steps therein as the importance of the said works may appear to require; and the council appoint the clerk to lay this act, and the whole papers therein referred to, before the first meeting of the next council, so as the same may be kept in view and attended to by them as early as possible.

(Signed)

THOMAS LEYS, Provost.

[*Council Register*, vol. lxvii. p. 219.]



28th September, 1799.—Sederunt—John Dingwall, provost, Baillies Murray and Lumsden, Dean of Guild and Treasurer, Provost Leys, Mr. James Hadden, Mr. Thomas M'Combie, Mr. John Gill, Mr. Alexander Galen, Mr. George Mole, and Deacon Ross.

The said day, Mr. Carnegie, the clerk, laid before the council the act of their predecessors, of date the 18th of September current, containing the substance of the report of a committee of a general meeting of the inhabitants rated for police-tax, at L.5 of yearly rent and upwards, relative to the opening and making out of two new streets or avenues to the town from the south and north, by the bridges of Dee and Don, according to separate plans thereof made out and subscribed by Charles Abercrombie and Colin Innes, surveyors; and also respecting the bringing into town the springs of water at Hazlehead, for affording a more abundant supply to the inhabitants by private pipes into their houses, as made and reported to a general meeting of the same class of inhabitants, held upon the 17th of September current, along with estimates of the expense, as nearly as could be obtained, of executing both the said important public works; and the draught of a bill proposed to be brought into parliament in this present session, for the more ready and effectual execution of these works; together with an act of the said general meeting, requesting that the council would take the proper measures for carrying the whole forthwith into effect, both as to the proposed new streets, and the bringing into town the water of the Hazlehead springs; and thereafter, that they would order the minutes of the said general meeting, along with the report, and proposed draught of a bill, to be printed and distributed, for the information of all concerned. In consequence of all which, the last council, by their act above-mentioned, unanimously approved of the execution of both the said important works, and were of opinion, that the town council should afford every aid in their power for promoting the same. All which having been read over to, and deliberately considered by the present council, they unanimously concur in opinion with their predecessors, with respect to both the above important works, and resolve and agree to afford every assistance in their power for promoting and forwarding their execution; and particularly, by interposing the credit of the community in raising a sum of money to a certain extent, for helping to defray such expenses as it shall be found necessary to be disbursed in the beginning of works of such magnitude and extent; and in order that as little time as possible may be lost in beginning to their execution, the council name and appoint Provost Dingwall, Provost Leys, Baillie Shepherd, Mr. More, dean of guild, Mr. Thomson, treasurer, and Mr. James Hadden, or any three of them as a committee, to whom they hereby remit full power to take such measures as shall appear to them to be the most speedy and effectual for promoting and for forwarding the execution of both the above important objects; and particularly, to cause the proposed bill to parliament, along with the minutes of the said general meeting of the inhabitants, to be printed and distributed to such of the inhabitants as are interested and concerned therein for their information; with power also to the said committee to call for the advice and assistance of any of the other members of council, or of such of the inhabitants whom they may deem most proper—Provost Dingwall to be convener of the above committee.

(Signed)

JOHN DINGWALL, Provost.

[*Council Register*, vol. lxvii. p. 225.]

11th December, 1799.—Sederunt—The Provost and four Baillies, Dean of Guild, and Treasurer, Thomas M'Combie, William Johnston, John Gill, John Young, Alexander Galen, Convener Craig, Deacon Ross.

The said day, the provost reported, that the committee, appointed for conducting the progress of the bill authorised by the council to be brought into parliament this session, for empowering certain trustees to open and make out two new streets, from the south and north, to communicate with the Castle-street, according to their act, of date the 28th of September last, had caused print and disperse a sufficient number of copies of the said bill; and particularly, that they had caused deliver full copies thereof, and of the minutes and resolutions of the general meeting of the inhabitants, and act of the town council respecting the same, to be delivered to all the heritors of houses and lands through which the said intended streets are proposed to be carried, or to their known agents, according as they are individually described in the bill itself: That the committee had now finally adjusted the whole of the said bill, which, along with the several notices and intimations made thereof, in terms of the standing orders of the House of Commons, by the council, for leave to bring in the bill how soon the parliament sits down; which petition it was intended to send up with Mr. Allardyce, the town's member, who proposed to set out for London in the beginning of next month, and to be presented by him to the House. The provost farther represented, that it would be necessary to procure a loan, against the ensuing term of Martinmas, of a considerable sum of money, not only for defraying the expense of obtaining the proposed act of parliament, but also for enabling the trustees to be thereby appointed to proceed in the execution of it, after it was passed into a law. All which having been considered by the council, they unanimously ratify and approve of the whole conduct and procedure of the said committee in this business; and they remit to and empower the magistrates to endeavour to procure, against the 20th of this month, the loan of any sum or sums of money to be borrowed by the treasurer of Aberdeen, not exceeding in whole the sum of L.10,000 sterling, to be applied for the particular purposes before-mentioned, and to report the amount of the several sums they may obtain, and the names of the particular persons who are to lend the same, in order the treasurer may be empowered to grant them the proper securities therefor.

(Signed)

JOHN DINGWALL, Provost.

[*Council Register*, vol. lxvii. p. 232.]

21st January, 1800.—Sederunt—The Provost and four Baillies, Dean of Guild, and Treasurer, Thomas McCombie, John Gill, George Tower, John Young, George Mole, Alexander Galen, Convener Craig, and Deacon Ross.

The said day, the provost laid before the council a letter, of date the 13th current, which had been received by Mr. Carnegie, the clerk, from Mr. James Chalmers, solicitor, London, owning receipt of the printed draught of a bill proposed to be brought into parliament, for opening the two intended new streets from the south and north, with the minutes of the general meeting of the inhabitants, approving of that measure; and transmitting, at same time, to the clerk a MS. copy of the bill, made out by Mr. Chalmers, from the draught sent him, along with a petition to the House of Commons, to be signed by the provost, in name of the council, for leave to bring in the bill: That Mr. Chalmers advises that the bill, as printed, seemed to be well penned, and the method devised for valuing the property very fair and proper, but that he had taken the liberty to make some small immaterial alterations; the principal of which was, leaving out in the first enacting clause what was said of the plans and surveys of the engineers, for two reasons: first, because the way in which they are introduced seemed to tie down the trustees not to deviate an iota from these plans, which, however perfect they may be thought, would be improper; and secondly, the plans were in this way made part of the act, while there was no mode by which they could be authenticated by the legislature:



ture: and noway to shew that the plans to which the trustees will hold are identically the same with those produced in parliament, and referred to in the act. Instead of which, he had introduced, in the preamble of his copy, that surveys and plans had been made, a matter of fact which would be proved, and was proper to shew that the scheme had been formed deliberately, and on proper advice: That all the notices required by the standing orders of the House of Commons, as to the bill, had been complied with, and sent him; but that some body here behoved to go through all the persons interested, and deliver or leave for them a notice that such a bill is depending, and that their property will be affected thereby; and the person so employed for this purpose must go up to London, and be sworn, and attend the committee of the House of Lords. Mr. Chalmers farther advises, that he had had a meeting with Mr. Dorington, the out-door clerk of the House of Commons, upon this subject, who approved of all Mr. Chalmers' alterations, and what he had said on the subject; which letter of Mr. Chalmers', with his MS. copy of the proposed bill to parliament, as altered by him, with the petition to the House of Commons, having been all deliberately considered by the council, they unanimously approve of the same, and of the alterations proposed to be made on the bill by Mr. Chalmers, and appoint the petition to the House of Commons, after being signed by the provost, in their name, and having the city seal affixed to it, to be delivered to Mr. Allardyce, their member in parliament, in order to be presented by him to the House of Commons, how soon he goes up to London; and remit to and empower the committee, formerly named in this business, to cause transmit to Mr. Chalmers, the solicitor employed by them, the MS. copy of the bill, now laid before the council, along with the plans of the two intended streets, and such other documents and papers as may be farther necessary in the progress of the bill through parliament; and also to employ some proper person to give intimations and notices to all the heritors, and others interested, along both the intended streets, as desired by Mr. Chalmers' letter; and to send him up to London, in order to certify and swear to such notices being made, in the committee of the Lords: And, in general, the council empower the said committee, or quorum of them before-named, to take such measures as shall appear to them the most speedy and effectual for promoting and forwarding, by every means in their power, the progress of the said bill through parliament, in all its stages, aye and until they obtain it passed into a law.

(Signed)

JOHN DINGWALL, Provost.

## AN ACT

FOR

OPENING AND MAKING TWO NEW STREETS IN THE CITY OF ABERDEEN.

~~~~~  
 April 4, 1800.
 ~~~~~

Whereas the principal avenues to the central parts of the city of Aberdeen, from the south and north, by the bridges of Dee and Don, are narrow, indirect, and inconvenient; and the increase of the inhabitants of the said city, and demand for houses and other buildings, render it expedient to open certain new streets and passages; and, by the direction of the magistrates of the said city, surveys have lately been made, and plans formed for two new streets, with areas on each side thereof, intended for new buildings to occupy the property herein-after described, which will be attended



with great utility and advantage to the public in general, and to the said city and its inhabitants in particular ; but as this design cannot be accomplished without the authority of parliament—

May it please your majesty, that it may be enacted, and be it enacted, by the king's most excellent majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the lords spiritual and temporal, and commons, in this present parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, That the magistrates and other members of the town council of the city of Aberdeen for the time being, the members in parliament for the town and county of Aberdeen, the principal of the Marischal college of Aberdeen, the president of the society of advocates in Aberdeen, the convener of the incorporated trades, and the president of the society of shipmasters of Aberdeen, all for the time being, shall be, and they are hereby appointed trustees for executing this act, seven of whom are hereby declared to be in all cases a quorum ; and the said trustees shall be, and hereby are authorized and empowered, from and after the passing of this act, by themselves or their deputies, agents, workmen, servants and others, to be employed by them, but upon the terms and conditions herein-after mentioned, to open and make two new streets or avenues, the one from the south-west part of the town of Aberdeen, beginning at a foot-path, or lane, leading from the entry of the Damhead road, towards the Chapel of Ease, and to be carried from thence eastward, nearly in a straight line along the grounds on the north side of the Windmill-brae, across the Denburn, and the Back and Correction wynds, and through St. Catherine's hill, and the Narrow-wynd, until it join the west end of the Castle-street, or market place, of the said city ; and the other beginning at the south side of a foot road or lane adjacent to and upon the east side of the high road leading to Old Aberdeen, called Love-lane, and to be carried from thence nearly in a straight line south, through the neighbouring grounds by the town's meal market and North-street, until it enter the north side of the Castle-street ; or as near to the said several lines of direction as conveniently may be.

II. And be it further enacted, That the said trustees, or quorum of them, shall have full power and authority, and they are hereby empowered and authorized to treat and agree with the several owners, occupiers, liferenters, lessees, and all others interested, for the purchase of such lands, houses, tenements, leases, and hereditaments, as may be necessary for the making and completing the said two new streets or avenues, in the direction before described, or either of them, and areas on each side thereof, not exceeding in whole one hundred and sixty feet in breadth, whereof sixty feet is to be appropriated for the street, and fifty feet on each side thereof for areas ; particularly with George Walker in Bents of Skene—(here follow the names of the other heritors, &c. in the line of the south entry) ; who are all the heritors, occupiers, or liferenters at present known or discovered, of lands, houses, or other hereditaments intended to be occupied by the said south street or avenue, and building areas along the same : And also with Alexander Moir, Esq. of Scotstown—(here follow the names of the heritors, &c. in the line of the north entry) ; who are all the heritors, occupiers, or liferenters at present known or discovered of lands and hereditaments intended to be occupied by the said north street or avenue, and building areas along the same ; or with the heirs and disponees of all or any of the aforesaid persons ; and with any other person or persons, body or bodies corporate, who are or may be proprietors, liferenters, occupiers, or lessees of any of the said lands, tenements, or hereditaments, or with the owners, liferenters, or occupiers of any other lands, tenements, or hereditaments, which may be found necessary in the making out the said intended two new streets or avenues before described, and the areas on each side thereof to be occupied thereby, in the lines or directions before mentioned to the extent before and after specified.

III. Provided always, that although any of the heritors, occupiers, or liferenters of any of the said lands, tenements, and other hereditaments, shall, through misinformation, have been wrong named or described, it shall not afford any ground or pretence for the said heritors, or others interested, or any of them, for objecting to, or interrupting the execution of the said works under the present act.

IV. Provided

IV. Provided also, and be it enacted, that the said trustees shall be obliged, on or before the 31st day of December, 1800, to give notice by advertisement, to be inserted in the newspaper called the *Aberdeen Journal*, and in one of the newspapers published at Edinburgh, to the several heritors and liferenters of the said lands, tenements, and other hereditaments, whose properties are intended to be taken and purchased for the purposes of this present act, describing such properties, and the owners thereof, and others interested therein, as far as known; otherwise this act shall be no longer binding upon the said heritors and liferenters; and after such notice and advertisement, it shall be in the power of the said heritors and liferenters severally, if so inclined, to compel the trustees to proceed and complete the purchase of such lands, tenements, and heritages, in the terms and upon the conditions of this act.

V. And be it further enacted, that it shall and may be lawful to and for all bodies politic, corporate, or collegiate, trustees, heirs of entail, tutors or curators for infants, minors, idiots, furious or other persons, and to and for all and every other person or persons whomsoever, who are or shall be seised, possessed of, or interested in any of the said lands, houses, tenements, or other hereditaments, to sell and convey to the said trustees, all or any such lands, houses, tenements, or other hereditaments, or any part thereof, and all their right to and interest in the same, for the purposes aforesaid, &c.

VI. Provided always, and be it enacted, that in case no agreement shall be concluded between the said trustees and the said heritors, liferenters, or lessees, or any of them, either by the heritors and others interested refusing or neglecting to treat and agree, or to accept of the value and price offered to them by the said trustees, within ten days after being required under form of instrument so to do, or from the said persons interested being under incapacity or unknown, then it shall be competent to the sheriff-depute of the county of Aberdeen for the time being, or his substitute, upon application being made to him by the said trustees, to name and appoint seven skilful and indifferent persons, who, after being sworn by the said sheriff faithfully to discharge their duty, shall have full power and authority, and they are hereby empowered and required to value and appreciate the several properties, one or more specified in such application, within two calendar months after their being so appointed; and their decision and determination therein shall be final and obligatory on all the parties concerned: Provided nevertheless, that it shall be optional to any heritor, liferenter, lessee, or other person interested, either to allow the appreciation to be made as aforesaid, or (within six days after the nomination of appreciators by the sheriff is intimated to him or her) to name one arbiter for him or herself, who, along with another arbiter, whom the said trustees shall be obliged to name within six days after being required so to do, shall have full power, and they are hereby empowered to ascertain and determine the value and price to be paid to the heritor or other party submitter, for his or her property, within one month after they are named; and that such arbiters, in case of differing in opinion between themselves, shall have full power and be obliged, within ten days after such difference is declared, to name an oversman or umpire with the like powers as themselves, to be continued during fourteen days after he is so named, and within which time he shall be obliged to determine.

VII. And be it further enacted, that in case of the said arbiters failing to determine or to name an oversman, or of the oversman named declining to accept and act, within the respective times before limited; in either of these events, it shall be competent to and in the power of the said sheriff-depute, or his substitute, and he is hereby empowered and required, upon application of the said trustees, to nominate and appoint three skilful and indifferent persons for ascertaining and determining upon oath, by the decision of all or any two of such persons, the value to be paid to the heritor or heritors, or other party submitters, for their property or interest, and which last decisions and determinations shall



shall also be final and binding upon all the parties concerned ; notice in writing being always given to the person or persons interested, if they can be discovered, at least ten days before the time of such valuation or assessment, either by the valutors or arbiters to be named by the sheriff, or the parties themselves, intimating the time and place of the meeting of the valutors ; by delivering such notice to such person or persons personally, or by leaving the same at his, her, or their usual place or places of abode, or with some tenant or occupier of the said lands, tenements, or other hereditaments intended to be valued, in case such party cannot otherwise be found out, to be served with such notice ; and all which decisions and determinations to be made and pronounced, either by the appreciators to be named by the sheriff, or the arbiters named by the parties themselves, or the oversman, after being duly authenticated, shall be entered in the records of the sheriff court of Aberdeen, and the same, or copies thereof, signed by the clerk of court, shall be deemed and taken as good and lawful evidence in all courts of law and equity whatever.

VIII. Provided nevertheless, that it shall not be lawful to or in the power of the said trustees to compel any proprietor of houses or heritages in the line of the said streets, or within the proposed areas intended to be built upon, to sell or dispose of the same, by valuation or otherwise, as hereby directed, for the purpose or with a view of the said trustees again selling or disposing of such houses or heritages as they formerly stood, but only for the purpose of taking down the same, and disposing of or using the ground and areas for the purposes of this act ; nor shall it be lawful to the said trustees to enter upon the premises, or to dispossess the proprietors, occupiers, or lessees for the time, of any part of the said houses, tenements, or other hereditaments, at any time sooner than it shall become necessary to use and employ the same for the purpose of opening and making either of the said intended new streets, or the execution of the plans of building on the areas on each side thereof ; and particularly, that it shall not be in the power of the said trustees to sell or dispose of any of the said houses, tenements, or other hereditaments, or to cause any part thereof to be taken down or removed, except for the execution of the purposes of this act only ; but such proprietors, after their acceptance and receipt of the agreed or awarded price of their respective properties, shall be liable and obliged, during their possession thereof, to pay to the said trustees such reasonable rent or annual consideration for the same, as shall be agreed on between them and the said trustees, or as shall be fixed by the arbiters who previously determined the value and price to be paid therefor.

IX. And be it further enacted, that if any of the owners, proprietors, and lessees of the said lands, houses, tenements, or other hereditaments, upon legal tender made to him, her, or them respectively, either personally or at their dwelling houses, if residing within the city of Aberdeen, or if residing without the said city, made at the dwelling house of some tenant or occupier of the premises, shall refuse or neglect to accept of such offered price, or if the party or parties interested shall not be able to make out a good title to the premises, to the satisfaction of the said sheriff depute, or that the subjects are encumbered or entailed, so that the price of the same cannot be safely and legally paid to the parties immediately interested ; in any of these events, the said trustees are and shall be authorized to make payment and consignment thereof, with the approbation and warrant of the said sheriff-depute, or his substitute, into the Bank of Scotland, or Royal Bank of Scotland, for the use and behoof of the parties truly interested, &c.

X. (Clause for reinvesting purchase money of lands belonging to persons who are disabled or incapacitated from receiving the prices of properties.)

XI. (Liferenters to be secured in 5 per cent. of the price.)

XII. (In case the price awarded shall not be paid, the award to be null and void.)

XIII. And



XIII. And be it enacted, that it shall and may be lawful to and for the said trustees, and they are hereby authorized and empowered, after making payment of such sum or sums of money as shall be agreed on between them and the said owners and occupiers, or other persons interested therein respectively, or adjudged or awarded as aforesaid, for the purchase of the said lands, houses, tenements, and other hereditaments, tacks or leases, or after consignation thereof in the cases aforesaid, to order the said houses, tenements, and other buildings, to be taken down, and the areas to be cleared, and otherwise use the property so acquired, as shall be thought proper and necessary by the said trustees, for the purposes of this act.

XIV. And be it also enacted, that after the purchase of any such tenements, houses, lands, and other hereditaments, as shall be found necessary for the execution and completing of the said new streets or avenues, and the areas on each side thereof, the said trustees shall be, and they are hereby authorized and empowered to sell by public auction, for an adequate price, the materials of all such houses and buildings, and also the remaining ground or building areas along each side of the said intended new streets, for payment either of a reasonable price, or annual feu-duty; and that they shall be obliged to account for and apply both the purchase money and annual feu-duties thereof to and for the purposes of this act, and none other; and that they are and shall be authorized and empowered to pay the purchase money or adjudged value of the said lands, tenements, and other hereditaments, tacks or leases, out of such sums of money as they may raise by voluntary subscriptions, or out of such other sums as shall be raised and received by them, in way of loan or otherwise, for the purposes of this act.

XV. Provided also, and be it enacted, that previous notice shall be given by the said trustees to the tenants and occupiers of all such lands, tenements, houses, leases and other hereditaments, as are to be so converted and disposed of for the purposes aforesaid, three months at least before the term of Whitsunday, at which the said tenants or occupiers are to be removed therefrom, by affixing a notice in writing to that effect upon the most patent door of such houses, tenements, and other hereditaments, or by delivering such notice to the principal occupiers thereof.

XVI. And be it further enacted, that in the event of either of the said new streets, or areas on each side thereof, cutting through and taking off only a part of any of the houses or buildings that may be standing thereon, or of the gardens, courts, or other grounds, occupied thereby, the proprietors, liferenters, and possessors of such houses, buildings, and other hereditaments aforesaid, shall be entitled (if they so incline) to receive and be paid the full and adequate value of the whole of such buildings, houses, and other hereditaments; and which the said trustees shall be, and are hereby obliged to purchase, account for, and pay accordingly, as the same shall be determined, in the manner before directed.

XVII. And be it further enacted, that all the meetings of the said trustees shall be held within the town house of the said city, and that they shall have four quarterly stated general meetings during the year, in the same place, *videlicet*, upon the first Tuesday of June, the first Tuesday of September, the first Tuesday of December, and the first Tuesday of March annually, at twelve of the clock noon, for putting this act and the powers hereby committed to the said trustees in execution, beginning the first of the said quarterly meetings upon the first Tuesday of June in the year one thousand eight hundred; and that at all meetings of the said trustees, the provost, or other person acting as chief magistrate of the said city for the time, shall preside; and in case of an equality of votes in any question that may come before the said trustees, shall have a casting or decisive voice therein, as well as a deliberative one; and that their preses shall cause the whole of the said trustees to be summoned to attend the said quarterly meetings, by written or printed notices, to be given to them personally, or left at their dwelling houses (if residing within the said city) at least twenty-four hours  
previous

previous to the time of the said meetings ; with full power also to the said trustees to nominate and appoint treasurers, clerks, and other officers and servants, proper and necessary under them, in order to the due execution of this act, and, when they think proper, to remove and displace them, or any one of them respectively ; and also to limit and appoint reasonable and adequate salaries, wages, and other allowances, to be made and paid to such officers and servants, and to make such other orders, rules, and regulations, as the nature of each particular service shall seem to them to require, and they shall deem expedient ; and from time to time to vary, alter, or revoke any of the said rules and regulations, and to do such other acts and things as to the said trustees shall appear proper and necessary for putting this act in execution, they being always consistent with the several powers and regulations of this present act.

XVIII. And be it enacted, that the said trustees present at such quarterly meetings may adjourn themselves from time to time, as they may think proper or necessary, for executing the powers vested in them by this act ; and that the clerk of the said trustees shall give written or printed notices to each of them of such adjourned meetings, in the same manner as is required for the said quarterly meetings ; and it shall also be in the power of the preses of the said trustees, of himself, to appoint other meetings of them, to be held so often and at such times as may to him seem necessary and expedient ; the whole trustees being always summoned to attend every such meeting, in manner above-mentioned.

XIX. And be it further enacted, that all and every act and acts of the said trustees shall be entered and minuted in books to be kept for that purpose, by their clerk, or other person to be appointed for that purpose ; which, and all other books and entries respecting the same, or that contain any account or accounts relative to the purposes of this act, shall be produced, if required, at every public meeting, and shall be signed by the preses thereof ; and such entries and books, after being so signed and authenticated, shall be held and taken to be the original orders and proceedings of the said meetings, and also shall and may be produced and taken in evidence in all courts whatsoever : And in case any surplus of the money received for the lands, tenements, and hereditaments, acquired by the said trustees, shall remain in their hands after paying the expenses of this act, and what is laid out in making the proposed new streets and the new buildings on the sides thereof, the said trustees shall be and they are hereby obliged to pay such surplus to the treasurer of the city of Aberdeen for the time being, for the use of the community ; and it shall be in the power of any member of the town council for the time, to call for an account of the money received and expended, and to sue for the payment and application of the surplus as aforesaid.

XX. Provided always, and be it enacted, that it shall not be lawful to, or in the power of the said trustees, to enter upon the execution of any part of the aforesaid work and improvements, until they shall have raised and secured, by subscription, loan, or otherwise, the respective sums of money following, *videlicet*, fifteen thousand pounds sterling, before beginning the said south street or avenue, and five thousand pounds sterling, before beginning the said north street or avenue, to be applied and employed, as they shall have occasion, towards defraying the expense which shall be incurred by them in the purchase of property, or otherwise, from time to time, in the execution of the purposes of this act.

XXI. And be it also enacted, that in case any suit or action shall be commenced against any person or persons, for any thing done in pursuance of this act, the defendant or defendants of such suit or action may produce this act, and plead that the said things were done by the authority thereof ; and if it shall appear so to be done, that then the defendant or defendants shall be absolved from every such suit or action, and shall have triple costs and expences, in the defence thereof, awarded to them, from and against the prosecutor or prosecutors of the same.

XXII. (Declared to be a public act.)



## No. II.

## STATEMENT,

*Dated 23d September, 1817,*

BY THE MAGISTRATES AND COUNCIL OF ABERDEEN,

With reference to their Declaration of date 19th Sept. 1817.

~~~~~  
Referred to in Note page 370.
 ~~~~~

At Aberdeen, the 23d day of September, in the year one thousand eight hundred and seventeen, in presence of the town council of Aberdeen:

Which day, the following declaration having been read over to the council, was approved of, and appointed to be engrossed in the council record, of which the tenor follows, viz.—*Council-chamber, 23d September, 1817.*—The council, in reference to the invitation which was given to the burgesses and inhabitants assembled at the head court, on the 20th instant, to appoint a committee to investigate the books and accounts connected with the new streets; and, finding that *that* meeting did not deem it proper to nominate any such committee, consider it a duty they owe to themselves and their predecessors in office, before dissolving this their concluding sederunt on public business, again to revert to the causes which have led to the present pecuniary embarrassments of the town's affairs. In doing this, they cannot avoid recalling to notice the strong and earnest solicitations of the inhabitants in 1799, to interpose the credit of the community for opening and making out two commodious and convenient approaches from the south and north, the want of which had been long felt and loudly complained of. In purchasing properties, and carrying these important undertakings into effect, under the authority of the new street act, a large debt was necessarily and early incurred; to meet the full interest of which, no exertions have yet been able to realize a sufficient revenue. Still, however, it affords some source of satisfaction to reflect, that the money expended has been principally paid to those inhabitants whose properties were situated in the line of the streets, and that the value of the other properties in the vicinity, more particularly those of the incorporated trades, has been greatly enhanced, while the benefit and accommodation to the community at large must be admitted by every unprejudiced and candid mind. Thus, in procuring a great and lasting improvement for the city of Aberdeen, without any tax having been imposed upon its inhabitants, has the debt under which it now labours been contracted; and while a very valuable property along the new streets is still unproductive and remains to be realized, yet the funds of the community, as vested in the trustees for the creditors, yield at present an interest of upwards of four per cent. per annum. It affords a farther ground of satisfaction to reflect, that, in later times, and particularly since the passing of the new street act, regulations have been established, whereby no part of the property can be let or disposed of but by public auction; a salutary regulation, which has been steadily pursued, and the propriety and benefit of which must be generally admitted. Keeping these circumstances in view, so indispensably necessary in forming a fair and impartial judgment on the merits or demerits of the administration of the town's affairs, and connecting them, by way of explanation, with the minute and declaration signed in council on the 19th instant, the members who framed the said minute declare that the objects they had in view were solely to express and record their opinions, that a change ought to be effected in the manner of electing the council, and an effectual controul given to the citizens over the



expenditure of the town's office-bearers ; and those members of the council who had no opportunity of knowing its contents till it was read at the council-board, do declare, that their views neither did, nor, in justice to themselves or their predecessors in office, could go farther. In reference to the term "concealment," used in the above-mentioned declaration, the members of council have no hesitation in declaring, that they did not apply it to any act of improper concealment within their knowledge, but that it was meant to characterize that general practice of the borough system, which does not require any detailed accounts of receipt and expenditure to be annually laid before the public, and the usage which has been followed from time immemorial of reading abstracts only of the town's accounts at the annual head courts. To obviate all future grounds of complaint on that head, they conceive it their duty to recommend to their successors, as an essential branch of the controul which they are of opinion should be established in the inhabitants, that, instead of these abstracts, full and detailed statements of the receipt and expenditure of the burgh should be annually exhibited and published for the information of the community. The books have for several years been kept upon an improved system, introduced by some of the present members, and are patent when required.

While the council are fully sensible of the beneficial effects resulting from proper checks on public officers in the execution of their duties, and of the expediency of establishing a sufficient controul in the management of public affairs, they are bound to declare, that their recommendation in this respect does not proceed from any fact within their knowledge of an improper nature, connected with the administration of this burgh within the last twenty years ; and, in order that this may the more satisfactorily appear, the council beg leave to recommend to, and earnestly request of, their successors in office, to give access and every possible publicity, not only to the new street accounts, but to all other books and accounts of the burgh during their administration, or that of any of their number, and to all transactions whatever regarding the funds and property of the community, in which the individual members of this council may have at any time been concerned, and that a faithful report thereof be published. Before concluding, the council consider it their duty to record their conviction that their predecessors in office, who conducted the great improvements before referred to, were actuated by the most unwearied zeal in carrying into effect measures which had their origin in the anxious recommendation of their fellow-citizens ; and, while they are of opinion that a well digested alteration in the present set of the borough, will be attended with beneficial consequences, and restore confidence throughout the community, they again bear public testimony to the purity and uprightness of intention of those who have preceded them while these improvements were in progress.

Alex. Fraser  
Alex. Duncan  
Al. Brown  
D. Chalmers  
James Milne  
Will. Read

H. Gordon  
Al. Galen  
Wm. Lumsden  
Robt. Walker  
Geo. Thomson  
Charles Hacket

Al. Simpson  
Ja. Hadden  
Gavin Hadden  
James Cantley  
P. Taylor

Extracted from the council record of the burgh of Aberdeen, upon this and the seven preceding pages,  
by me, town clerk,

(Signed)

WM. CARNEGIE.

[Appendix to *Duplicates for Robert Garden and others, in the case of John Elphinstone and others,*  
No. I.]

## No. III.

## VOLUNTEERS.

There is, we believe, no class of men, in general, more loyal and independent than the burghesses of the royal boroughs of Scotland. During the late arduous contest between Great Britain and the government of France, their conduct was exemplary for patriotism, and distinguished by the strictest principles of loyalty on every occasion. The burghesses, and other citizens of Aberdeen, did not neglect to display their loyalty and patriotism at this important crisis with union of sentiment. At the commencement of the war, they formed themselves into associations as volunteers, for internal defence; and continued to serve with ardour and zeal, while their services were required. We cannot produce more ample testimony of this, than by annexing a list of the officers of the several volunteer corps at the peace of Amiens in 1801; and also at the commencement of hostilities in the year 1803.

## VOLUNTEER CORPS IN 1801.

*Royal Aberdeen.*  
(About 400 rank and file.)

*Lieutenant-Colonel Commandant,*

Thomas Bannerman

*Major, C. Bannerman*

*Captains,*

Thomas Leys

Chas. Gordon

Alex. Brebner

John Ewen

John Dingwall

*Lieutenants,*

Peter Farquharson

Alexander More

Charles Farquharson

James Thomson

William Black

Thomas Burnett

William D. Fordyce

William Gibbon

William Carnegie

George Hogarth

*Chaplain, James Shirrefs*

*Adjutant, William Byres*

*Surgeon, W. Robertson*

~~~~~  
Royal Aberdeen Light Infantry.
(About 800 rank and file.)

Lieut.-Colonel Commandant,

Alexander Daune

1st Major, James Hadden

2d Major, William Daune

Captains,

James Chalmers

James Littlejohn

Alexander Barron

John Blaikie

John Johnston

Charles Baird

Arthur Farquhar

Alexander Duncan

Alexander Brown

Alexander Hall

1st Lieutenants,

Alexander Duthie

Thomas Duncan

Robert Spring

Charles Fyfe

George Smith

Charles Panton

John Imray

John Allan

Robert Caie

Robert Smith

2d Lieutenants,

James Matthews

David Reid

George Barclay

Alexander Cooper

John Gordon

William Troup

David Chalmers

Alexander Low

John Law

~~~~~  
*Artillery Company.*

*1st Lieut. Francis Dodds*

*Sub-Lieut. James Harvey*

*Adjutant, Andrew Affleck*

*Chaplain, W. L. Brown*

*Surgeon, William Dyce*

*Qr.-Mr. Thomas Duncan*

~~~~~  
Old Aberdeen Volunteers,
(About 150 rank and file.)

Major Commandant,

Gilbert Gerard

Captain, William Jack

1st Lieuts. R. E. Scott

James Gordon

2d Lieuts. John Irvine

Robert Low

Chaplain, Skene Ogilvy

VOLUNTEER CORPS IN 1803.

*1st Regiment Aberdeen Volunteer
Infantry.*

(About 1000 rank and file.)

Lieut.-Colonel Commandant,

William Finlason

*Lieut.-Col. Hay Livingston**Major, William Black**Captains,*

Charles Skene

James Roy

James Moir

Alexander Fraser

James Bannerman

Thomas Burnett

W. Gilbert

David Chalmers

Lieutenants,

Henry Lumsden

George Mackenzie

Thomas Sangster

William Skene

James Simpson

Alexander Smith

John Brown

James Morison

H. Fullerton

James Turriff

James Dyce

Charles Grant

Charles Baird

John Middleton

Robert Gibb

James Spalding

Alexander Duthie

R. C. Grant

Alexander Abercrombie

George Shinie

Ensigns,

John Gordon

Alexander Simpson

James Grant

James Blackhall

William Donald

*Adjutant, Andrew Affleck**Chaplain, G. Gordon**Surgeon, W. Livingston**Assistant, W. Donaldson**Qr.-Mr. James Grant**Pay-Mr. H. Lumsden*

~~~~~

*Aberdeen Volunteers.*

(About 400 rank and file.)

*Lieutenant-Colonel Commandant,*

Thomas Leys

*Lieut.-Col. James Hadden**Major, Alexander Brebner**Captains,*

Charles Farquharson

Gavin Hadden

Charles Gordon

Alexander More

Alexander Crombie

John Ewen

Alexander Pirie

John Low

*Lieutenants,*

George Hogarth

Robert Tower

James Young

William Gibbon

John Young

Francis Gordon

Duncan Davidson

Alexander Low

James Hardie

*Ensigns,*

William Carnegie

R. Abercrombie

James Young

Thomas Black

James Forbes

Joseph Hogarth

*Adjutant, W. Lamont**Chaplain, Jas. Shirrefs**Surgeon, Hugh Macpherson**Qr.-Mr. Alexander Low*

~~~~~

Gileomston Pikemen.

(About 150 rank and file.)

Captain Commandant,

James Chalmers

*Captain, W. Paterson**Lieutenants,*

J. Cadenhead, jun.

John Cowie

Chaplain, James Kidd

~~~~~

*Aberdeen Pikemen.*

(About 400 rank and file.)

*Lieutenant-Colonel Commandant,*

Alexander Tower

*Major, George Storey**Captains,*

Alexander Gibbon

Arthur Gibbon

John Gill

Alexander Hall

James Buchan

*1st Lieutenant,*

Alexander Fiddes

*2d Lieutenants,*

J. Younghusband

Alexander Innes

James Midcalf

W. Stephen

*Adjutant, John Emslie*



## No. IV.

## MISCELLANEOUS OCCURRENCES IN ABERDEEN,

FROM A.D. 1707 TO A.D. 1818.

NOT MENTIONED IN THE PRECEDING NARRATIVE.



- 1740 ——— Geddes, ob venerem nefandam crematus fuit apud montem Castri.
- 1742 The houses of the town brilliantly illuminated, on the arrival of the news of Sir Robert Walpole having resigned his place as prime minister.
- 1743 In the month of December, this year, there appeared a comet with a long tail, at sun-setting, and in the east early in the morning. It continued visible till the beginning of February, when it was largest to observation.
- 1744 One of the citizens, while engaged in a smuggling adventure, in the month of July, killed, by a pistol shot fired by one of the officers of the customs; for which the collector was committed to prison by warrant of the sheriff, but admitted to bail by order of the crown lawyers.
- 1749 In the Raik fishing of Dee, 1500 salmon caught in one tide.
- 1752 William Wast, sailor, in Seaton of Auchmedden, executed and hung in chains, at the Gallow-hills, for murdering his wife. At the same time and place, Christian Frane was executed, for murdering her bastard child, and burning the body.
- 1756 A house in the Huxter-row burnt to the ground, by an accidental fire.
- 1757 A Spermacete whale cast on shore on the sands of Belhelvie, and claimed by the magistrates, who brought the blubber to town, and exported it to London.
- 1776 Alexander Morison, wright, executed and hung in chains, at the Gallowhills, on the 6th of November, for the murder of his wife. He was the last malefactor executed at that place.
- 1785 In the course of the winter, there was much rioting in the town, occasioned by attempts to prevent the servants and apprentices of the artificers from making their processions through the town on the anniversary of their elections, according to ancient custom. Several of them were committed to jail, for disobeying the orders of the chief magistrate; but they were liberated on bail, after the mob had demolished the town-house windows.
- 1789 The genuine *dysentaria* broke out among the fishers of Futtie, and raged with considerable virulence. The persons infected were removed to the battery which was fitted up as a temporary hospital for their reception; money being raised by subscription for supporting them.

## No. V.

## TABLE OF THE FIARS FOR THE COUNTY OF ABERDEEN,

FOR THE YEARS UNDERMENTIONED,

IN STERLING MONEY.

|                         | 1705.   | 1706.   | 1707.   | 1708.    | 1709.    | 1710.    | 1711.   | 1712.   |
|-------------------------|---------|---------|---------|----------|----------|----------|---------|---------|
| Great Oats, with fodder | L.0 7 2 | L.0 6 8 | L.0 7 9 | L.0 10 0 | L.0 8 10 | L.0 10 0 | L.0 8 0 | L.0 7 2 |
| without fodder          | 0 6 8   | 0 6 8   | 0 7 2   | 0 8 10   | 0 8 10   | 0 8 10   | 0 7 2   | 0 6 1   |
| Market Bear             | -       | 0 6 8   | 0 7 2   | 0 10 0   | 0 11 1   | 0 10 0   | 0 7 2   | 0 6 8   |
| White Meal, 9 stone     | -       | 0 6 8   | 0 6 11  | 0 8 10   | 0 11 1   | 0 9 5    | 0 6 8   | 0 6 8   |
| Malt                    | -       | 0 6 8   | 0 5 6   | 0 7 9    | 0 11 1   | 0 8 4    | 0 6 8   | 0 5 6   |
| Pease                   | -       | 0 6 8   | 0 6 8   | 0 8 10   | 0 11 1   | 0 9 1    | 0 8 4   | 0 6 8   |
| Wheat                   | -       | 0 8 10  | 0 10 0  | 0 13 4   | 1 0 0    | 0 15 0   | 0 11 8  | 0 11 8  |

|                         | 1713.    | 1714.   | 1715.   | 1716.   | 1717.    | 1718.   | 1719.    | 1720.   |
|-------------------------|----------|---------|---------|---------|----------|---------|----------|---------|
| Great Oats, with fodder | L.0 8 10 | L.0 9 5 | L.0 7 9 | L.0 7 9 | L.0 8 10 | L.0 7 9 | L.0 11 1 | L.0 7 9 |
| without fodder          | 0 8 4    | 0 8 4   | 0 7 9   | 0 6 11  | 0 8 4    | 0 7 9   | 0 8 4    | 0 6 8   |
| Market Bear             | -        | 0 8 10  | 0 7 2   | 0 7 2   | 0 8 10   | 0 8 4   | 0 9 5    | 0 7 9   |
| White Meal, 9 stone     | -        | 0 8 4   | 0 7 9   | 0 7 2   | 0 8 4    | 0 7 9   | 0 8 4    | 0 7 2   |
| Malt                    | -        | 0 7 9   | 0 6 11  | 0 6 1   | 0 7 9    | 0 7 2   | 0 7 9    | 0 6 8   |
| Pease                   | -        | 0 8 4   | 0 8 10  | 0 8 4   | 0 8 10   | 0 8 10  | 0 10 0   | 0 7 2   |
| Wheat                   | -        | 0 13 4  | 0 11 1  | 0 10 0  | 0 11 8   | 0 10 0  | 0 11 1   | 0 8 10  |

|                         | 1721.   | 1722.   | 1723.    | 1724.   | 1725.   | 1726.    | 1727.   | 1728.    |
|-------------------------|---------|---------|----------|---------|---------|----------|---------|----------|
| Great Oats, with fodder | L.0 8 4 | L.0 9 5 | L.0 11 4 | L.0 7 6 | L.0 7 2 | L.0 11 8 | L.0 7 9 | L.0 10 0 |
| — without fodder        | 0 7 2   | 9 8 10  | 0 10 0   | 0 6 11  | 0 6 8   | 0 7 2    | 0 7 9   | 0 9 5    |
| Market Bear             | -       | -       | 0 11 1   | 0 7 9   | 0 9 5   | 0 9 5    | 0 10 0  | 0 11 8   |
| White Meal, 9 stone     | -       | 0 9 5   | 0 10 0   | 0 7 6   | 0 9 0   | 0 8 10   | 0 8 10  | 0 10 0   |
| Malt                    | -       | 0 9 5   | 0 9 5    | 0 6 11  | 0 8 10  | 0 8 10   | 0 10 0  | 0 10 6   |
| Pease                   | -       | 0 11 1  | 0 11 8   | 0 8 4   | 0 10 0  | 0 11 8   | 0 11 1  | 0 13 4   |
| Wheat                   | -       | 0 11 1  | 0 11 8   | 0 11 8  | 0 14 2  | 0 13 4   | 0 13 10 | 0 13 4   |

|                         | 1729.    | 1730.   | 1731.    | 1732.   | 1733.    | 1734.   | 1735.   | 1736.    |
|-------------------------|----------|---------|----------|---------|----------|---------|---------|----------|
| Great Oats, with fodder | L.0 10 0 | L.0 8 4 | L.0 8 10 | L.0 8 4 | L.0 10 0 | L.0 9 2 | L.0 9 2 | L.0 10 0 |
| — without fodder        | 0 8 4    | 0 7 2   | 0 8 4    | 0 7 9   | 0 7 9    | 0 8 4   | 0 8 7   | 0 8 4    |
| Market Bear             | -        | 0 10 0  | 0 9 5    | 0 8 0   | 0 8 10   | 0 9 2   | 0 9 5   | 0 10 0   |
| White Meal, 9 stone     | -        | 0 9 5   | 0 8 10   | 0 7 6   | 0 8 4    | 0 8 10  | 0 10 0  | 0 8 19   |
| Malt                    | -        | 0 10 0  | 0 9 5    | 0 7 9   | 0 8 4    | 0 8 0   | 0 8 10  | 0 9 2    |
| Pease                   | -        | 0 10 6  | 0 6 11   | 0 7 9   | 0 7 9    | 0 8 10  | 0 9 5   | 0 10 0   |
| Wheat                   | -        | 0 11 8  | 0 10 0   | 0 10 0  | 0 11 1   | 0 11 1  | 0 11 1  | 0 11 1   |

|                         | 1737.    | 1738.    | 1739.    | 1740.    | 1741.    | 1742.   | 1743.   | 1744.    |
|-------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|---------|---------|----------|
| Great Oats, with fodder | L.0 10 0 | L.0 6 11 | L.0 10 6 | L.0 16 8 | L.0 10 0 | L.0 9 2 | L.0 6 8 | L.0 13 4 |
| — without fodder        | 0 7 9    | 0 6 8    | 0 8 10   | 0 11 8   | 0 10 0   | 0 8 4   | 0 6 0   | 0 11 1   |
| Market Bear             | -        | 0 10 0   | 0 7 9    | 0 13 4   | 0 11 8   | 0 10 0  | 0 7 0   | 0 11 8   |
| White Meal, 9 stone     | -        | 0 8 10   | 0 10 0   | 0 13 4   | 0 10 0   | 0 8 0   | 0 7 6   | 0 10 6   |
| Malt                    | -        | 0 9 2    | 0 7 9    | 0 13 4   | 0 11 8   | 0 10 0  | 0 6 8   | 0 10 0   |
| Pease                   | -        | 0 10 0   | 0 8 4    | 0 16 0   | 0 14 2   | 0 10 0  | 0 7 0   | 0 11 8   |
| Wheat                   | -        | 0 11 1   | 0 10 0   | 0 18 4   | 0 13 4   | 0 11 8  | 0 8 4   | 0 11 8   |



|                         | 1745.    | 1746.    | 1747.    | 1748.    | 1749.    | 1750.   | 1751.    | 1752.    |
|-------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|---------|----------|----------|
| Great Oats, with fodder | L.0 12 6 | L.0 10 6 | L.0 8 10 | L.0 11 8 | L.0 10 0 | L.0 9 5 | L.0 12 6 | L.0 11 8 |
| without fodder          | 0 10 0   | 0 8 10   | 0 7 9    | 0 8 4    | 0 7 6    | 0 8 4   | 0 10 6   | 0 10 10  |
| Market Bear             | -        | 0 13 4   | 0 8 10   | 0 11 1   | 0 8 10   | 0 8 7   | 0 11 1   | 0 12 6   |
| White Meal, 9 stone     | -        | 0 13 4   | 0 8 5    | 0 8 10   | 0 8 4    | 0 8 10  | 0 12 6   | 0 12 6   |
| Malt                    | -        | 0 12 6   | 0 10 8   | 0 10 0   | 0 8 10   | 0 8 10  | 0 11 1   | 0 12 6   |
| Pease                   | -        | 0 13 4   | 0 10 6   | 0 10 0   | 0 8 4    | 0 8 4   | 0 12 6   | 0 13 4   |
| Wheat                   | -        | 0 15 0   | 0 11 1   | 0 13 4   | 0 13 4   | 0 12 6  | 0 15 0   | 0 15 0   |

|                         | 1753.    | 1754.     | 1755.    | 1756.    | 1757.   | 1758.     | 1759.   | 1760.   |
|-------------------------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|---------|-----------|---------|---------|
| Great Oats, with fodder | L.0 13 4 | L.0 10 10 | L.0 12 6 | L.0 16 8 | L.1 0 0 | L.0 10 10 | L.0 8 9 | L.0 8 4 |
| without fodder          | 0 10 0   | 0 7 9     | 0 10 10  | 0 13 4   | 0 10 10 | 0 8 10    | 0 6 4   | 0 7 2   |
| Market Bear             | -        | 0 12 0    | 0 11 8   | 0 16 8   | 0 15 0  | 0 10 0    | 0 9 6   | 0 8 6   |
| White Meal, 9 stone     | -        | 0 10 6    | 0 8 10   | 0 15 0   | 0 13 8  | 0 8 4     | 0 7 4   | 0 7 9   |
| Malt                    | -        | 0 11 8    | 0 10 0   | 0 15 10  | 0 15 0  | 0 10 0    | 0 10 0  | 0 8 6   |
| Pease                   | -        | 0 10 0    | 0 10 0   | 0 15 0   | 0 14 2  | 0 10 0    | 0 7 4   | 0 8 4   |
| Wheat                   | -        | 0 13 4    | 0 11 8   | 1 1 0    | 0 18 4  | 0 14 0    | 0 12 0  | 0 12 6  |

|                         | 1761.   | 1762.   | 1763.    | 1764.    | 1765.    | 1766.    | 1767.    | 1768.    |
|-------------------------|---------|---------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Great Oats, with fodder | L.0 9 2 | L.1 0 0 | L.0 12 0 | L.0 15 0 | L.0 16 8 | L.0 17 6 | L.0 15 0 | L.0 11 8 |
| without fodder          | 0 7 6   | 0 13 4  | 0 10 4   | 0 11 8   | 0 13 4   | 0 13 4   | 0 11 8   | 0 9 8    |
| Market Bear             | -       | 0 9 6   | 0 15 0   | 0 14 0   | 0 16 8   | 0 18 4   | 0 15 0   | 0 11 8   |
| White Meal, 9 stone     | -       | 0 8 10  | 0 15 4   | 0 13 4   | 0 15 10  | 0 15 2   | 0 13 0   | 0 11 3   |
| Malt                    | -       | 0 10 0  | 0 14 2   | 0 14 2   | 0 16 8   | 0 17 6   | 0 14 0   | 0 11 8   |
| Pease                   | -       | 0 8 4   | 0 13 4   | 0 13 4   | 0 13 4   | 0 14 2   | 0 13 4   | 0 13 4   |
| Wheat                   | -       | 0 13 4  | 0 14 0   | 0 16 8   | 0 18 0   | 1 0 0    | 1 0 0    | 0 17 0   |

|                         | 1769.    | 1770.   | 1771.    | 1772.   | 1773.    | 1774.    | 1775.   | 1776.    |
|-------------------------|----------|---------|----------|---------|----------|----------|---------|----------|
| Great Oats, with fodder | L.0 12 0 | L.1 0 0 | L.0 18 4 | L.1 1 0 | L.0 16 8 | L.0 16 0 | L.1 2 6 | L.0 10 6 |
| — without fodder        | 0 10 0   | 0 12 0  | 0 14 0   | 0 14 6  | 0 15 0   | 0 15 0   | 0 12 6  | 0 10 0   |
| Market Bear             | -        | 0 12 6  | 0 15 6   | 0 18 6  | 0 16 0   | 0 17 6   | 0 15 6  | 0 10 6   |
| White Meal, 9 stone     | -        | 0 11 8  | 0 16 0   | 0 16 8  | 0 15 6   | 0 16 8   | 0 14 0  | 0 10 4   |
| Malt                    | -        | 0 12 0  | 0 14 6   | 0 16 0  | 0 16 0   | 0 17 6   | 0 14 0  | 0 10 4   |
| Pease                   | -        | 0 13 4  | 0 14 0   | 0 14 6  | 0 14 6   | 0 16 0   | 0 15 0  | 0 10 0   |
| Wheat                   | -        | 0 15 0  | 1 1 0    | 1 1 8   | 1 1 0    | 1 0 3    | 0 16 6  | 0 16 0   |

|                         | 1777.    | 1778.    | 1779.    | 1780.    | 1781.    | 1782.   | 1783.   | 1784.    |
|-------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|---------|---------|----------|
| Great Oats, with fodder | L.0 12 6 | L.0 15 0 | L.0 15 0 | L.0 12 6 | L.0 13 0 | L.1 0 0 | L.1 1 0 | L.0 14 0 |
| — without fodder        | 0 11 0   | 0 10 6   | 0 10 0   | 0 10 6   | 0 10 6   | 0 18 0  | 0 18 0  | 0 12 0   |
| Market Bear             | -        | 0 13 4   | 0 11 6   | 0 12 0   | 0 12 4   | 1 1 0   | 0 18 6  | 0 16 0   |
| White Meal, 9 stone     | -        | 0 13 0   | 0 11 3   | 0 12 0   | 0 11 8   | 1 1 6   | 0 19 6  | 0 13 6   |
| Malt                    | -        | 0 14 0   | 0 13 4   | 0 14 0   | 0 16 0   | 0 17 0  | 0 19 8  | 0 17 2   |
| Pease                   | -        | 0 13 0   | 0 11 0   | 0 11 0   | 0 10 6   | 1 0 0   | 0 17 0  | 0 12 0   |
| Wheat                   | -        | 0 18 6   | 0 14 0   | 0 18 0   | 0 18 0   | 1 2 0   | 0 19 0  | 0 18 0   |

30

|                         | 1785.    | 1786.   | 1787.    | 1788.    | 1789.    | 1790.    | 1791.    | 1792.    |
|-------------------------|----------|---------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Great Oats, with fodder | L.0 14 6 | L.1 0 0 | L.0 15 0 | L.0 14 0 | L.0 11 8 | L.0 15 0 | L.0 17 6 | L.0 15 0 |
| — without fodder        | 0 12 0   | 0 16 0  | 0 13 4   | 0 10 6   | 0 10 0   | 0 13 0   | 0 12 6   | 0 12 0   |
| Market Bear             | -        | 0 16 0  | 0 16 0   | 0 13 4   | 0 13 4   | 0 14 6   | 0 16 6   | 0 16 8   |
| White Meal, 9 stone     | -        | 0 14 4  | 0 13 4   | 0 10 6   | 0 10 0   | 0 12 4   | 0 15 0   | 0 16 0   |
| Malt                    | -        | 0 17 0  | 0 17 6   | 0 16 8   | 0 16 0   | 0 16 6   | 0 19 0   | 0 19 0   |
| Pease                   | -        | 0 15 0  | 0 13 4   | 0 13 0   | 0 15     | 0 12 0   | 0 13 4   | 0 15 6   |
| Wheat                   | -        | 0 17 0  | 0 18 0   | 0 18 0   | 1 1 0    | 1 0 0    | 0 19 0   | 0 19 6   |

|                         | 1793.    | 1794.    | 1795.    | 1796.    | 1797.    | 1798.    | 1799.    | 1800.    |
|-------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Great Oats, with fodder | L.0 19 0 | L.0 19 0 | L.0 18 0 | L.0 15 6 | L.0 15 0 | L.0 18 0 | L.1 13 0 | L.2 15 0 |
| without fodder          | 0 14 6   | 0 14 6   | 0 16 0   | 0 14 6   | 0 12 6   | 0 13 6   | 1 0 0    | 1 15 0   |
| Market Bear             | -        | -        | 0 15 0   | 0 17 0   | 1 0 0    | 0 16 8   | 0 13 8   | 2 1 0    |
| White Meal, 9 stone     | -        | 0 16 0   | 0 16 0   | 0 16 0   | 1 0 6    | 0 15 4   | 0 15 0   | 2 1 8    |
| Malt                    | -        | 1 0 0    | 1 0 0    | 1 0 0    | 1 2 6    | 0 18 6   | 0 12 6   | 2 5 0    |
| Pease                   | -        | 0 15 6   | 0 15 6   | 0 13 4   | 0 11 6   | 0 13 4   | 1 6 8    | 1 5 0    |
| Wheat                   | -        | 1 1 0    | 1 15 0   | 1 1 0    | 1 0 0    | 1 0 0    | 2 0 0    | 2 5 0    |

|                         | 1801.    | 1802.    | 1803.   | 1804.   | 1805.    | 1806.   | 1807.    | 1808.    |
|-------------------------|----------|----------|---------|---------|----------|---------|----------|----------|
| Great Oats, with fodder | L.0 19 0 | L.0 17 3 | L.1 7 0 | L.1 1 0 | L.0 19 0 | L.1 1 0 | L.1 16 0 | L.1 18 0 |
| without fodder          | 0 16 0   | 0 14 9   | 0 16 0  | 0 17 0  | 0 16 6   | 0 18 6  | 1 3 0    | 1 13 6   |
| Market Bear             | -        | 1 1 6    | 0 16 0  | 1 2 6   | 0 18 6   | 1 1 6   | 1 4 0    | 1 4 0    |
| White Meal, 9 stone     | -        | 0 17 6   | 0 16 8  | 0 19 3  | 0 19 0   | 1 2 0   | 1 8 2    | 1 9 3    |
| Malt                    | -        | 1 6 0    | 1 6 2   | 1 16 0  | 1 16 0   | 1 18 0  | 2 0 0    | 2 0 0    |
| Pease                   | -        | 0 16 0   | 0 15 0  | 0 17 0  | 0 16 8   | 0 19 6  | 1 6 0    | 1 7 0    |
| Wheat                   | -        | 1 6 0    | 1 1 0   | 0 0 0   | 1 13 0   | 1 16 0  | 1 10 0   | 2 2 0    |

|                         | 1809.   | 1810.   | 1811.   | 1812.   | 1813.   | 1814.   | 1815.    | 1816.   |
|-------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------|---------|
| Great Oats, with fodder | L.1 2 0 | L.1 1 0 | L.1 7 0 | L.2 0 0 | L.1 9 0 | L.1 5 0 | L.0 17 0 | L.1 9 0 |
| without fodder          | 0 18 0  | 0 17 0  | 1 0 6   | 1 15 0  | 1 1 6   | 0 18 0  | 0 13 0   | 0 18 0  |
| Market Bear             | -       | 1 2 0   | 1 1 0   | 1 15 0  | 1 5 0   | 0 19 0  | 0 13 0   | 1 8 0   |
| White Meal, 9 stone     | -       | 1 3 8   | 1 0 10  | 1 16 0  | 1 1 4   | 0 18 0  | 0 11 9   | 1 9 3   |
| Malt                    | -       | 2 4 0   | 1 6 0   | 2 14 0  | 2 5 0   | 1 15 3  | 1 12 6   | 2 5 0   |
| Pease                   | -       | 1 4 0   | 1 0 0   | 0 0 0   | 0 0 0   | 0 0 0   | 0 12 6   | 0 0 0   |
| Wheat                   | -       | 2 0 0   | 1 12 6  | 2 12 6  | 1 12 0  | 1 6 0   | 1 2 0    | 1 7 0   |

N.B. In converting the sums from Scottish to Sterling money, fractions under 1d. have been purposely omitted in the preceding Table.



## No. VI.

## CHARTER OF THE LANDS OF ARDLAIR,

GRANTED BY

GAVIN DUNBAR, BISHOP OF ABERDEEN,

TO THE PROVOST, BAILLIES, COUNCIL, AND COMMUNITY OF ABERDEEN,

FOR SUPPORTING THE BRIDGE OF DEE.

~~~~~  
Referred to in page 416.
 ~~~~~

Omnibus hanc cartam visuris vel auditoris Gauin<sup>9</sup> miseratione diuina Abirdoneñ epus salutem in Domino sempiternā Noveritis nos cū cōsensu et assensu ac ausamēto decani et capituli nre ecclesie cathedralis Abirdoneñ ad hoc specialī die capitulari per sonū campane majoris ut moris est capitulariter cōgregatorū vocatisq; vocandis et interesse habēñ et p̄tendēñ precedente solenni tractatu matura deliberatione p̄habita ecclesieq; nre cathedralis Abirdoneñ atq; rei publice et regni Scotie utilitate consideratis dedisse cōcessisse alienasse ac imperpetuū cōfirmasse Nec non dare cōcedere alienare et presenti carta nra Imperpetuū cōfirmare dilectis nostris Gilberto Mēzeis preposito balliis consilio et cōmunitati burgi de Abirdēñ et suis successoribus p̄positis balliis cōsilio et cōmunitati pro tempore eiusdem burgi de Abirdēñ **TOTAS ET INTEGRAS TERRAS** nras de Ardlair cum uniuersis pertinētiis suis jaceñ infra dominū et schyram nram de Clate et cōmunitatū de Garioth ac vicecōmunitatū de Abirdene ad sustentationē manutēsiōnē reparationē et cum opus fuerit re-edificationē noui lapidii pontis superfluuio seu aqua de Dee prope idem burgum de Abirdonē inter terras de Kincorth de Abbatim et cōuētum de Abirbrothok ex australi et terras de Ruddrestonn ad heredes quondā Henrici Leith olim de Barnis spectāñ ex boriali partibus. Que quidē terre de Ardlair cum pertinēñ allegat fuerint per p̄sus hereditarie pertinere Andree Elphinstone de Selmys ac de nobis et etiam nostra ecclesia cathedrali Abirdonē per seruitium feodifirme tente in capite Et ob non exhibitionē seu extēsiōnē carte sue infeodationis dictarū terrarū nobis ut de jure tenebatur per nros legitimos p̄cessus pro ut juri congruit prefato Andree ceterisq; omnibus ad easdem t̄ras cum pertinēñ interesse habentib<sup>9</sup> seu jus in eisdem quomodolibet habere p̄tendēñ ad instantiā nram super premissis legitime citatis sepiusq; vocatis Suisq; cōtumatiis legitime accusatis cui<sup>9</sup> ob causam et alias rationabiles causas nobis et successorib<sup>9</sup> nostris ad perpetuo in p̄prietate permanēñ adiudicate fuerant ac lapsis anno et die ad plegiā nūme dimiss<sup>1</sup> seu petitis in rem iudicatam transierunt Et quas etiam terras de Ardlair cum pertinētiis Idem Andreas nō vi aut metu duct<sup>9</sup> nec errore lapsus de sua mera libera ac spontanea voluntate pro quadē certa sūma pecunie per nos eidem Andree in sua magna et vrgenti necessitate persoluta in manib<sup>9</sup> nris tanq; in manib<sup>9</sup> Dñi superioris earundē cum oīni jure et juris clameo titulo proprietate et possessione Si quod quem aut quam habet habent aut habere potuit in seu ad hūmōi terras cum pertinētiis per fustum et baculū ad perpetuā remanentiā pure et simpliciter resignauit cessit et diuisit pro ut in processibus et instrumētis publicis desuper confectis latius continetur **TENEN. et HABEN.** totas et integras terras nras de Ardlair predictas cū pertinēñ supradictis p̄positis balliis et cōmunitati de Abirdēñ et burgi predicti ac suis successoribus p̄positis balliis et cōmunitati pro tempore eiusdem burgi de nobis et successorib<sup>9</sup> nris episcopis Abirdoneñ infeodo et hereditarie Imperpetuū per omnes rectas metas suas antiquas et diuisas pro ut jacent in longitudine et latitudine in boscis planis morē m̄rasiñ viis semitis aquis stagnis riolis pratis pascuis pasturis molendinis multuris et eorū sequelis acupationib<sup>9</sup> venationibus piscationib<sup>9</sup> petariis turbariis corbonariis colum-

bariis cuniculis cuniculariis hortis pomariis lapide et calce lapicidiis fabrilibus brasinis bruariis et gestis cum curā et carz exitibus herizeldis bluid vick et mulierz mchetis cum cōmuni pastura cōsuetā et nsitata libero introitu et exitu ac asiamētis ac justis suis pertineñ quibuscūq. tan nominatis q̄ non nominatis tam subt<sup>9</sup> terram q̄<sup>4</sup> supra terram procul et prope ad p̄dictas terras spectāñ seu juste spectare valeñ quomodolibet in futurum Et adeo libere quiete plenarie integre honorifice bene et in pace sine impedimēto revocatione aut cōtradictione aliquali in om̄ibus et p̄ omnia sicut alique tales terre infra regnū Scotie habētur tenentur seu possidentur. REDDENDO inde p̄memorati p̄positus ballivi et cōmunitas burgi de Abirdonē predicti et sui successores p̄positi ballivi et cōmunitas p̄ tempore eiusdem burgi de Abirdonē p̄petuo aūuatim nobis et successoribus n̄ris episcopis Abirdonēñ viginti sex solidos octo denarios vsualis monete regni Scotie ad duos anni terminos consuetos viz. festa penthecostes et Sancti Martini in hieme per equales duas medias portiones nobis p̄us antedictam recognitionē seu resignationē aūuatim debitis Vnacū sustentatione manutētionē reparatione cōstructione et reedificatione cum opus fuerit predicti novi pontis sup aqua seu fluvio de Dee per nos strati constructi et edificati secundū vim tenorem effectum et continentia cuiusdum obligationis per prepositū ballivos et cōmunitatē burgi de Abirdenē p̄fat desuper nobis pro se et suis successorib<sup>9</sup> nobis et successorib<sup>9</sup> n̄ris episcopis Abirdonēñ facē p̄ut in eadem de data apud Abirdonē die decimo quarto mensis Decembris anno 1529<sup>o</sup> latius cōtinetur nomine feodifirme tantū p̄ om̄i alio onere servitio exactione vel demanda q̄ de dictis terris cum pertineñ quomodo exigi poterit vel requiri Et nos antedict<sup>9</sup> Gavin<sup>9</sup> Abirdonēñ ep̄us nostriq̄ successores ep̄i Abirdonēñ omnes et singulas predictas terras de Ardlair cum pertineñ prefatis p̄posito ballivis et cōmunitate dicti burgi de Abirdenē et suis successoribus p̄positis ballivis et cōmunitati eiusdem burgi pro tempore in om̄ib<sup>9</sup> et per om̄ia forma pariter et effectū p̄missū est contra om̄es mortales varrantizābim<sup>9</sup> acquietābim<sup>9</sup> et imperpetuū defendem<sup>9</sup> In cuius rei testimoniū sigillū n̄rm autenticū necnō sigillū cōmune n̄ri capituli Abirdonēñ p̄dict huic p̄nti carte n̄re in signū sui consensus sunt appensa et eandem manu n̄ra et manibus decani et canonicorū Abirdonēñ capituli Abirdonēñ pro tempore p̄n̄m subscripsim<sup>9</sup> Apud civitatem Abirdonēñ decimo quarto die mensis Decembris anno Domini 1529<sup>o</sup> Coram testibus viz. nobili et potenti domino Georgio Comite de Huntlie venerabili p̄re Georgio priore Pluscarte coadiutore n̄ro et successore nobilibus venerabilibusq. et discretis viris magistris et dominis Valtero Ogilvy de Monycabok Johanne Key<sup>1</sup> de Ravyniscrag Hectore Boetio sacrarū frarum professore collegii Abirdonēñ primario Willelmo Hay earum frarum bachalario Willielmo Hay et David Makysōn notariis publicis cū diversis aliis.

(Signed)

Gavin<sup>9</sup> Abirdonēñ Ep̄us manu p̄pria  
 Georgi<sup>9</sup> coadjutor Ep̄i Abirdonēñ manu p̄pria  
 David Dischintoūe Cantor manu propria  
 Thomas Myrtoūn Archidiacon<sup>9</sup> manu p̄pria  
 Jacobus Vavane de Vine manu propria  
 Alexander Spittale de Clate manu propria  
 Robertus Elphinstonn de Kincardin manu p̄pria

[*Necrologia Ecclesie Cathedralis Aberdonensis*, f. 26.]

It appears from the original obligation, granted by the provost, baillies, council, and community, to the bishop, that the ancient bridge was built "of fyne aislar stane and lyme wyth pillaris pendis dlobill brasis battaling and tableis contenand sax pillaris tua land stalis and seven bollis clen hevin and laid w<sup>1</sup> brandaris of aik buluark of aik and stain about the said brig."—[*Necrologia ut supra*, fol. 29.]

## No. VII.

## PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS.

In the course of the last twenty-five years, the public improvements both in the town and the county have been carried on to a very great extent, by the spirited exertions of many patriotic individuals, distinguished for their zeal to promote undertakings of that description. Every one, whose recollection extends to a few years only beyond that short period, must be sensible of a very striking difference in the external appearance of this part of the kingdom. The consequence has been, an extension of trade and manufactures; a gradual amelioration of the condition of all ranks of the people; and a change in their mode of living, and also in their manners.

Having already had occasion to notice the public improvements of the town in modern times, we shall now annex an abstract account of the various turnpike roads which have been executed within the county, and in which the town and community of Aberdeen are more or less deeply interested.

| TURNPIKE ROADS IN THE COUNTY OF ABERDEEN. |                                                                                                                       |   |   |   | Extent of<br>lines.<br>M. F. Y. | Bridges in<br>the lines of<br>the Roads. | Conjectured<br>expense of<br>executing<br>the work. |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|---|---------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| No. 1.                                    | From ABERDEEN to Ellon,                                                                                               | - | - | - | 16 1 0                          | 5                                        | L.9000                                              |
| 2.                                        | ..... Ellon to Peterhead,                                                                                             | - | - | - | 16 4 0                          | 9                                        | 8000                                                |
| 3.                                        | ..... Peterhead to Fraserburgh,                                                                                       | - | - | - | 18 0 0                          | 5                                        | 7000                                                |
| 4.                                        | ..... Ellon to Ditto,                                                                                                 | - | - | - | 26 0 0                          | 7                                        | 13,000                                              |
| 5.                                        | ..... Peterhead to New Pitsligo,                                                                                      | - | - | - | 16 0 0                          | 3                                        | 6400                                                |
| 6.                                        | ..... Fraserburgh to New Pitsligo,                                                                                    | - | - | - | 10 5 3                          | 5                                        | 3000                                                |
| 7.                                        | ..... ABERDEEN to Oldmeldrum, (including the ex-<br>pense of constructing the bridge over the river<br>Don, at Dyce), | - | - | - | 17 4 0                          | 11                                       | 12,000                                              |
| 8.                                        | ..... Oldmeldrum to Fyvie,                                                                                            | - | - | - | 8 0 0                           | 2                                        | 4500                                                |
| 9.                                        | ..... Fyvie to Turriff,                                                                                               | - | - | - | 8 0 0                           | 4                                        | 3000                                                |
| 10.                                       | ..... Turriff to Banff,                                                                                               | - | - | - | 10 0 0                          | 5                                        | 4000                                                |
| 11.                                       | ..... Newburgh to Burn of Udny,                                                                                       | - | - | - | 6 2 0                           | 2                                        | 2400                                                |
| 12.                                       | ..... ABERDEEN to Inverury,                                                                                           | - | - | - | 16 0 0                          | 7                                        | 12,000                                              |
| 13.                                       | ..... Inverury to Huntly,                                                                                             | - | - | - | 22 0 0                          | 6                                        | 12,000                                              |
| 14.                                       | ..... ABERDEEN to Skene,                                                                                              | - | - | - | 9 0 0                           | 4                                        | 9000                                                |
| 15.                                       | ..... Skene to Alford,                                                                                                | - | - | - | 17 4 0                          | 10                                       | 5000                                                |
| 16.                                       | ..... Tarland to Drumlasie,                                                                                           | - | - | - | 13 0 90                         | 12                                       | 4000                                                |
| 17.                                       | ..... ABERDEEN to Charlestown,                                                                                        | - | - | - | 30 0 0                          | 5                                        | 13,500                                              |
|                                           |                                                                                                                       |   |   |   | 260 4 93                        | 102                                      | L.127,800                                           |

Besides commutation roads to a still greater extent of line in every district of the county, executed at the expense of the respective proprietors and their tenants.

The following abstract will exhibit a tolerable view of the very large sums which have been expended in the execution of the various public works and improvements in the town and the county, since the year 1794.

|                                                |   |   |   |           |
|------------------------------------------------|---|---|---|-----------|
| To the expense of the new streets of Aberdeen, | - | - | - | L.171,000 |
| ... Ditto of harbour improvements, &c.         | - | - | - | 127,600   |
| ... Ditto of Bridewell,                        | - | - | - | 10,000    |
| Carried forward,                               | - | - | - | L.308,600 |



|                                                                                                                                                                                           |                  |   |                  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|---|------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                           | Brought forward, | - | L 303,600        |
| To Expense of new prison,                                                                                                                                                                 | -                | - | 8,000            |
| ... Ditto of public places of worship, erected by the several congregations,                                                                                                              | -                | - | 20,000           |
| ... Ditto of Lunatic Asylum,                                                                                                                                                              | -                | - | 2,000            |
| ... Ditto of 261 miles, 4 furlongs, and 93 yards, of turnpike roads in the county,                                                                                                        | -                | - | 127,800          |
| ... Ditto of Stonchaven turnpike road, executed at the expense of the treasury of Aberdeen,                                                                                               | -                | - | 12,000           |
| ... Ditto of Aberdeenshire canal,                                                                                                                                                         | -                | - | 41,000           |
| ... Ditto of bridges over the rivers Dee and Don, one half of the expense of which being contributed by government, the other half by the landed proprietors in the vicinity, being about | -                | - | 7,000            |
|                                                                                                                                                                                           |                  |   | <u>L.529,400</u> |
| To these may be added the stock sunk in carrying on the Greenland fishery, in which there are 14 ships employed,                                                                          | -                | - | 112,000          |
|                                                                                                                                                                                           |                  |   | <u>L.641,400</u> |

Besides improvements of the harbours of Peterhead and Fraserburgh.

*This sum is greatly more than the value of the fee simple of the whole landed property of the town and county, at the time of the union of the two kingdoms, in the year 1707.*

### No. VIII.

The collectors of the cess and public taxes for the county of Aberdeen are Hary Lumsden, and Henry Lumsden, Esqrs. The following table, with which they have kindly favoured us, will shew the sums paid by the county for the several years under-noted.

|                                                                         |   |   |            |           |           |               |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|------------|-----------|-----------|---------------|
| The valued rent of the county of Aberdeen is                            | - | - | L.235,665  | 8         | 11        | Scots.        |
| And the land tax, collected according to that valuation, at the rate of |   |   |            |           |           |               |
| L.13 16s. 8d. Scots, for each L.100 Scottish money, is                  | - | - | 2715       | 4         | 0         | Sterl.        |
| <i>Table of assessed taxes of the county, for the following years.</i>  |   |   | 1808.      |           | 1818.     |               |
| To window tax,                                                          | - | - | L.4099     | 4         | 6         | L.4944 1 6    |
| ... Inhabited house tax,                                                | - | - | 482        | 16        | 0         | 772 16 9      |
| .. Male servants,                                                       | - | - | 680        | 4         | 0         | 1474 5 0      |
| ... Private four-wheel carriages,                                       | - | - | 421        | 0         | 0         | 664 0 0       |
| ... Post-chaises                                                        | - | - | 142        | 16        | 0         | 126 0 0       |
| ... Stage coach                                                         | - | - | 0          | 0         | 0         | 10 10 0       |
| ... Wheeled carriages with less than four wheels,                       | - | - | 114        | 0         | 0         | 292 9 0       |
| ... Carriage and saddle horses,                                         | - | - | 964        | 12        | 0         | 1323 5 6      |
| ... Draught and husbandry horses,                                       | - | - | 3143       | 17        | 6         | 2455 6 6      |
| ... Dogs,                                                               | - | - | 272        | 4         | 0         | 591 2 0       |
| ... Armorial bearings,                                                  | - | - | 67         | 4         | 0         | 127 4 0       |
| ... Hair powder tax,                                                    | - | - | 84         | 0         | 0         | 50 10 6       |
| 10 per cent. on duties levied for year ending Whitsunday 1808,          |   |   | L.1045     | 14        | 3½        |               |
| Deduct allowance for children,                                          | - | - | 217        | 19        | 11        |               |
|                                                                         |   |   | <u>827</u> | <u>14</u> | <u>4½</u> |               |
|                                                                         |   |   | L.11,299   | 12        | 4½        | L.12,831 10 9 |
| Property tax for the year 1807, ending April 1808,                      | - | - | 20,571     | 7         | 10        |               |
| Do. 1815, 1816,                                                         | - | - |            |           |           | 27,649 18 7   |

## No. IX.

IN former parts of this work, (pages 91 and 137), we had occasion to notice, that on the return of king James VI. to visit his native kingdom, in the year 1617, after his accession to the throne of England, a poem was composed by David Wedderburn, rector of the grammar school, at the desire of the magistrates, for which there was voted to him, by the town council, a remuneration of fifty merks. When this circumstance was noticed, we had not been able, in the course of our researches, to discover that work; but since, we have fortunately found, in the "*Delitiæ poetarum Scotorum*," printed at Amsterdam, in the year 1637, Mr. Wedderburn's poem on the king's visit to Scotland, and another on his return to England. As that publication is now become very scarce, and as these poems may be regarded as curious by many readers, we shall here present them as a specimen of the author's poetical talents, and attainments in literature; and as a testimony of the loyalty and attachment of the community of Aberdeen to their sovereign at the time.

*Synephranterion in reditu Regis in Scotiam, 1617.*

Phœbe vale, vosque una olin mea cura sorores  
Ite novem: vanis vestra haud ego numina votis  
Sollicitare paro: nec jam deserta per alta  
Parnassi me raptat opis spes indiga vestræ:  
Quippe alium facili divertitur orbita clivo  
Ad Phœbum, cujus facies mihi reddita, anhelò  
Acreis nescio quos stimulos sub pectore versat.  
Ægide conspecta, ferali ac Gorgonis ore  
Diriguere homines in saxa, at saxea corda  
Molliat hæc facies, atque enthea sensa ministret.  
O dilecta Deo facies? cui Iupiter ipse  
Cesserit, ætherea vultus ut luce coruscòs  
Indueret, Semeleque istos rediviva reposcat.

Ergo te hic sistis reducem Rex magne? tueri  
Ora datum? & notas audire & reddere voces?  
Optatam o lucem toties! qua nulla reluxit  
Candidior, ne tum domita Babylone superba  
Magnus Alexander magni cum flexit habenas  
Orbis, & extremos suo sceptrâ extendit ad Indos.  
Namque licet compos tanti moderaminis, illum  
Attamen haud iterum post tot repetita trophæa  
Di voluere unquam patrios invisere fines.  
Numen et ecce tibi concessit, ut ante senectæ  
Stamina quam seræ tibi Clotho emensa, revisas  
Majorum, ætatisque tuæ incunabula prima.

Ergo veni, amplexare tuos, ulnisque tuorum  
Amplexare aveas magnorum o maxime regum.  
Nec vero allicimus tam opibus Gangetica tellus  
Quas fundit; donisve, Ophyre quæ flava caminis  
Excoquit Eois, vel quæ Tagus aurifer amnis  
In mare purpureum rapidis devolvit arenis:

Quā fidæ haud corruptū unquam libamus amorem  
Mentis; & hoc patrem patriæ te amplectimur uno.  
Quin sua tela licet jam jam mors sæva minetur,  
Haud nocitura tamen te viso: conjugis umbram  
Laodamia sui sic pressit, lætaque vitam  
Exhalasse viri memoratur imagine capta.

Quid vero amplexus petimus tanti hospitis?  
eheu

Vota retractamus: patriæ nam fumus Vlyssi  
Gratior illecebris etsi Lotique Deæque,  
Solis inaccessos habitat quæ filia lucos:  
Attamen amplexus, haud nostræ hæc muncra sorti  
Conveniunt, gemino queis vix par orbis ab axe.  
Alcidæ nec enim debetur gloria tanta,  
Fixerit æripedem cervam licet, atque tot omnes  
Spars'erit in terras gravium monumenta laborum;  
Quanta tibi, rex magne, tibi, cui monstra tre-  
menda

Edomuisse datum, quæ Roma effudit, & ipsa  
Viscera telluris nostræ: graviore periclo  
Deucalionæis quam quo crevere sub undis  
Monstra ea Phœbæis quondam confixa sagittis.  
Ac veluti Hercules peregrinas alite fama  
Tot liquit memoranda labos documenta per aras:  
Haud secus hinc totum virtus tua fusa per orbem.  
Sint Batavi, Batavisque hostis, sit Iberia testis,  
Sitque omnis Rhēni tractus, quaque alta fluenta  
Vistula tot riguos spatiosè effundit in agros.  
Et magna Hadriaci Veneti vos gloria ponti,  
Nos (quod in hunc toties oculos atque ora referre  
Publica res moneat) vos inquam appello, fidemque

Vestrum

Vestram illam, quam non populos modo flexerit,  
atquā

Et reges regat hic, & quam unus mole sua stet.  
Non ita Tantalides juratos Aulide Grajum  
Tot reges regumque atavos, regumque nepotes  
Enituit supra solio subnixus eburno :  
Aut domus omnipotens cæli cum panditur, almus  
Inter permistos Divis heroas ab alto  
Iupiter, & totum nutu cum concutit orbem :  
Qualis consilio regum procerumque coacto.

Progenie hinc, bis sæcla decem numerataque fastis  
Quam tot ævorum effert series longissima regum :  
Hinc veri atque æqui solerti indagine, Phœbus  
Quos videt, hic reges unus supereminet omnes.

Scilicet is, digno virtus quæ principe digna,  
Quid jus fasque ferant, suus & qui regibus altis  
Constet honos, magna proclamat voce per omnes  
Terræ oras, sopitque ignes, quos monstra pararunt  
Igneo ab Ignati quibus ordine fluxit origo.  
Monstra, quibus non Armeniæ deserta peragrat  
Sanguinis innocuti tigris sitientior ulla.  
Blanda quidem specie, sed si penetralia mentis  
Pervia, serpentum pateant spiramina mille,  
Mille nocendi artes, quibus haud requiesve mo-  
dusve.

Ille Deus, superæ contemptum lucis ut ætas  
Nostra luat, Stygiis emergere pignora noctis  
Sedibus est passus : dedit hæc canis ora trifaucis ;  
Argi oculos, cervique aures, unguisque Celenus,  
Eumenidumque alas, ac qui tegit omnia vultum  
Ambiguum Protei, nunc hunc, nunc protinus il-  
lum,

At quamcunque novent faciem, quamcunque ; fi-  
guram

Pectoris induerint, manet, æternumque manebit  
Consilium hoc, reges scelerato exscindere ferro.

At vero Calais Zethesque ut, sydere fausto  
Pulchro sâtos Borea quos edidit Orithya,  
Obscœnas dirasque procul, Phineia mensa  
Vt fœda sine labe foret, pepulere volucres ;  
Haud aliter, rex magne, Aquilo, Septemque  
triones

Ter gemino cujus jactant se subdere colla  
Imperio, Harpyjas, Roma indignante, rapaces  
Has procul exegisti, atque hæc tibi monstra  
subacta

Ingenii fœlicis acumine, quod tibi in uno  
Te ornando sese major Tritonia Pallas  
Annuit, & sacrauit divini oracula verbi.  
Noctes atque dies quæ dum perpendis, & acri  
Iudicio rimaris, abis ad tempora prisca,  
Teque tuere horum exemplo, sive impius auras  
Arrius ad superas remeet, Phlegetonte relicto ;  
Seu nova procudant alii sua dogmata, sectas  
Vt foveant : quæ (proh) tot succrevere, quot us-  
quam

Pene urbes sacra lotæ baptismatis unda  
Hinc ferra bella movent, & dum concurrere ferro  
Sic properant, ferrum cognata in viscera condunt.  
Haud secus exanguis Cadmæi dentibus orti,  
Quosve ita prognatos mirata est Colchica tellus,  
Fraternis in se versi cecidere sub armis.  
Interea, quorum est tantos componere motus,  
Reges non id agunt, posito ut certamine, Christi  
Mystica membra optent corpus coalescere in unū.  
Ast aliæ hos agitant curæ, quin flamma perenne  
Duret ut ista, adhibent studiumq ; operamq ; pe-  
rennem.

Tu vero antiquæ ad fidei primæva reducis  
Dogmata, & unire hæc conaris ovilia sparsa,  
Dum non pastores sequeris, quos devius error  
Noxia diducit per pascua, nuda sed usque  
Christi sanctorumque premis vestigia patrum.  
O si consocies ! non cluso limine Iani  
Augustus, tanto non Constantinus honore  
Magnus se jactet, quantum virtutibus addet  
Hoc meritum, meritisque tuis hæc maxima virtus.  
Nec Constantino tot pectoris indita quondam  
Munera, quot tibi sunt præsto, si expendere sæcla  
Hæc perversa sinant ; quæ bella, heu horrida bella  
Irrequieto agitant animo : pacisque recidunt  
Semina prima, unam mentem, & cor cælitus unū.  
Sed pacis studiosus amor, sed dextera semper  
Innocua, ac mentis seu vis illa insita, rerum  
Seu longo collecta usu prudentia certant  
Te decorare adeo, ut dubium, diademate rex sis  
Major an ingenio : quo non speciosior ardet  
Chrysolithus, quamvis nativo interlitus auro.  
Namque illud tanta illustrat clementia, ut ipsos  
Imo hostes super irradiet, licet obvia ab ortu  
Et gravia & vicibus repetita pericula multis.



Tuq; adeo rex magne agedum, sic perge, nec ausus

Impediant sanctos malesana ac hostica passim  
Consilia, aut quæ dira foveant molimina vota.  
Si Deus haud contra, quis contra insurgere tentet?  
Ille tuos hostes, ceu cera liquescit ab igne,  
Coctilis in scrupos ut testa resolvitur, omnes  
Conteret, atque suæ nectent sibi retia pœnæ.

Extera si regna hæc concordia fœdera pacis  
Respuerint peritura sui, ut Narcissus, amore:  
Perge tamen, rex perge tuos unire, nec ullæ  
Reliquiæ invidiæ subsint veterumve malorum:  
Inque unum cœtum & leges coeamus in unas.  
Hinc, veluti quæ multa virum jam sæcula vicit.  
Visceribus terræ penitus defigitur arbos,  
Brachiaque extendit, quæ non superare vel Austri  
Præcipites valeant, vel fulminis alitis iræ.  
Nempe cohors Christi solido fundamine sedes  
Hic positura suas, sic te tria regna sub uno  
Fœdera amicitiae tandem hæc initura perennis.  
En, tota hæc mundi compages, nonne parentis  
Vnio naturæ est, gremio dum pontus opaco  
Se terræ insinuat, dumque oscula mutua captat?  
Hinc unum in celeri decurrunt flumina lapsu  
Oceanum, Oceanus refluas post egerit undas,  
Cursusque his variant vicibus, variantque recursus,  
Hæc elementa fovens aer se expandit ad omnes  
Terrasque, tractusque maris, genitalis & inde  
Humor, & inde hominū ac pecudū, viteq; volantum.

At cæli hos campos liquidos en axis uterque  
Excipit amplexu. Tanta est concordia rerum.  
Complexus divelle istos, luxataque fiant  
Membra, hæc congeneres partes, en protinus omnis  
In chaos antiquum reditura hæc machina mundi.  
Sic rerum natura parens his nexibus omnes  
Mollit, & in nostri penitus conspirat amorem.  
Tum sedes una est, uno circumsona ponto,  
Vni hostes, uno sociique ligamine pacis  
Evincti, atque una hæc Arctoi climatis aura,  
Vna & lingua, atque una fides, Deus unus, & unus  
Rex, decus atque tui merito pars maxima regni.

Quæ vero comitum, quæ tanta hæc turba tuorū?  
Saxonidum præfecti arvis, ipsique vetusta  
Saxonidum de gente, tuis, en Scotia, regnis  
Succedunt, stabilisque tibi quin pacis olivam  
Prætentant insigne manu, quæ spicula vibrans

Olim acie instructa, nostroque iubuta cruore  
Fortunam hic belli toties experta vicesque est.  
Tum vero alterius certatum est cladibus, heu!  
Devotasque animas morti per tela, per hostes  
Dum ruere approperant, nō flentis ab ubere matris  
Pignora flexerunt, non clarae conjugis ulli  
Amplexus, non arva suis viduata colonis.  
Heu desolatas urbes! heu conjuge cassas  
Tot viduas, charis puerosque parentibus orbos?

Alme Pater talem hinc nostris avertito pestem  
Finibus: & pacem divino robore firmans  
Hunc lætum Scotisque diem, Tamesique profectis  
Esse velis, nostrosque hujus meminisse nepotes.  
Ad sit lætitiæ Bacchus dator, & bona cornu  
Copia. Magnanimos namq; haud furibunda flagello

Sanguineo Bellona duces jam poscit ad arma,  
Tessera non cædit signum, non flumina inundant  
Sanguine: sed positis armis in sæcla recurrunt  
Aurea, & æternis firmissima fundamentis.

Sic eat, atque hilares libeat transmittere ludo  
Hinc noctes, atque inde dies: juvat, en juvat, alta  
Pervolitare juga, aut vasto quæ sævus in antro  
Abdit aper catulos. Sic poscit odora canum vis,  
Et lato, rex magne, tua hæc venabula ferro,  
Quæque feras reddit faciles hæc mitior auræ  
Temperies, atq; avidis jã subdita flamma medullis,  
Nam Venus, ut blandū inspiret per pectora amorē,  
Nunc Paphon, Idaliumque suum, nunc alta Cythera

Linquens, nota subit placide spelæa ferarum:  
Quas actas cæcis stimulis tibi, maxime regum,  
Cogit ovans, raucos renovant dum cornua flatus:  
Montium & assensu vox ingeminata remugit.  
Saltibus ecce etiam Fauni, Dryadesque relictis,  
Virgineisque choris accedit Delia cincta,  
Delia quæ mærens, te nempe absente, tot annos  
Spreverat arma suis nimium desueta triumphis.

At comitum e latebris aliæ pavitantia turbant  
Agmina cervorum jacula, convallibus imis  
Præcipitant aliæ, celeri juga summa volatu  
Contendunt superare aliæ: simul emicat ardens  
Venator, cursuque leves prævertitur Euros:  
Nec prius absistit quam sixus arundine cervus,  
Quisquis is, in vacuis moribundus concidat arvis.

His ubi finis erat, tandem Rex optime, lustras  
Tellurem patriam, quoquo vestigia flectis,

Quoquo oculos, pars nulla tuis non inclyta fastis  
Ostentat monumenta. Aquilæ hic, Romanaque  
signa

Cessere : hic Dano de ingenti erecta trophæa:  
Ultima & in cineres collapsa hic gloria Pictis :  
Brittonum at inde plaga est tristi commissa duello.  
Vtraque quæ cædes mente aversata priores  
Ingenua pacem unanimi jam pectore spirat.  
Hanc reges statuisse urbem dicuntur : at ista  
Nobilitant regum cineres, manesque sepulchra.  
Hic rursus cunæque, Laresque, & chara Penates  
Numina, quæ primæ quondam tibi conscia lucis :  
Hic Postquam firmata virum te fecerit ætas  
Exeruit tua se virtus, verique laboris  
Fortuna, usque adeo totum celebrata per orbem.  
Sic oculos rex pasce, urget breve labilis ævi  
Curriculum, serosque seni quæ lubricat annos  
Canities : nisi fors primos Iolaus ad annos  
Vt rediit dubia tectis lanugine malis,  
Hoc cæli tractu, puro hoc natalis & haustu  
Aeris, addat idem Iunonia muneris Hebe,  
Et plenis renovata fluant tibi stamina fusis.  
Sicque utinam eveniat memor ista volubilis ætas !  
Quâ tamē ; hæc tanquam nunquā hinc cernenda  
per ævū,

Dū licet, hauri oculis avidis. Vt pompa deorū  
Invitat ! Neptunus equos, classesque, viriles  
Mars animos, segetesque Ceres, Nymphæq ; sa-  
lubres

Dant fontes, altis & flumina montibus orta,  
Sive Caledoniis decurrant finibus, aucta  
Grampus hæc cano seu vertice fundat, ut oras  
Lambat Abredoniæ, quippe addictissima regi  
Ista suo, & reliquas supra officiosa sorores,  
Illæ usque officiis celebres licet omnibus omnes.  
Vin' flores ? rident horti hinc, hinc prata, corollas  
Dum calathis sua dona legunt nectuntque Napææ.  
Quin ipsa invitat cæli indulgentia, amice  
Cunctaque conspirant elementa, tepentibus auris  
Laxant arva sinus, atque omnis ubique resedit  
Flatus, ut æquoreis placide se attemperet undis.

Tum natalitiam veluti si læta novarent  
Fata tibi lucem (livor depaverit atris  
Se licet in tenebris) totas delubra per urbes

Lætitiæ, plaususque patrum, populique secundos  
More novo ingeminant, dum sidera voce lacescunt.  
Cum teneris pueri, matresque, nurisque, puellis-  
Edocturi inter mensas vestigia quondam [que  
Quæ tua, quasve ingens urbes impleveris hospes.

Quin adeo tenuis si quondam rura Molorchii  
Alcidæ, magno quamvis Iovis incremento ;  
Sique ipsi placuere Iovi tua tecta Philæmon ;  
Scotia nonne tibi placeat tua, maxime regum ?  
Dives agris, opibusque potens, quas exigit usus  
Vitæ etiam illustris : magis ast opulenta, superne  
Quæ tibi concessa est, vita : tu gloria nostra,  
Tu gazæ, nostrumque tuo fulgore coronas  
Fulgorem, laudesque quibus Mavortia gaudent  
Pectora, ut indigenis. Nam nos, & nostra tot illa  
Oppida, munitæ haud turres, haud ardua cingunt  
Mœnia, sed dextræ Spartanæ, vincula fœde,  
Teste vel invidia, nunquam servilia passæ.  
Quid ? victi an vinci potuere ? an cedere pulsi  
Scotigenæ ? quorum vires atque inclyta gesta  
Aggeribus fossisque ipsa est cohibere coacta  
Roma ea, quæ Parthis iniecit fræna superbis.  
Libera colla jugo, tibi sic dat subdita regi,  
Vt rosea seu luce dies retegatur, opacis  
Seu tenebris nitidam nox lucem involverit atra ;  
Istis nulla domus non compleat æthera votis :

En nos, summe Parens, vitæque necisq ; po-  
testas

Quem penes est unum, meritas tibi solvimus uni  
Ore animoque uno grates : quod vescimur aura  
Vitali, quod amica tegit concordia pennis  
Hæc niveis tua regna, procul discordibus armis.  
Quod pia sacrati sequimur compendia verbi,  
Muneris usque tui totum est. Tu fautor, & autor.  
Quippe illum incolumen præstas, quo sospite sos-  
Publica res, labente labat, tractura ruinam [pes  
Cum sonitu ingentem. Quæ ne pater optime vin-  
Hæc retro in pejus vergentia sæcla tuorum, [cant  
Da pater, o votis. Atque ut virtutis inago,  
Et regum exemplar vivum rex omine dextro  
Hactenus hoc molitus iter, sic salvus & usque  
Auspiciis lætis faustum hinc iter omne revolvat,  
Et longum, at dulcis patriæ memor, exigat ævum.



*Propempticon Charitum Abredonensium.*

Siste rotas, currus ferventes siste: querelis  
Et lachrymis impende morā, quas fundere mæror  
Rege abeunte jubet; brevis hæc, modo poscere  
fas sit.

Vosque Deæ, aurigæ regis, fluitantia lora,  
Et volucres inhibete axes: anne hostica tellus,  
Quæ vobis linquenda? sin dulcedine regem  
Patria nec mulcet solita, nec cura suorum,  
Nec lacrymæ miseris confusæ questibus udæ;  
Sed si certa animo regi sententia sedit,  
Natali remeare solo, fælicibus oro  
Auspiciis pergat, cedens fælicibus arvis.  
Ast unum sine fraude mihi fas poscere regem,  
Dum properat, lentus properet, spatiumque lo-  
quaci

Vel modicum nostro velit indulgere labori.

Hæc ubi præcursor, referunt sua lumina Divæ,  
Primaque Relligio, quam mystæ, & psallere docti  
Circundant, horum vox aurea missa per astra,  
Innumeros numeros, & non imitabile carmen  
Sic ciet, ut philomela homini prius æmula cedat,  
Threiciumque sui pudeat, se iudice, vatem.  
In patriam hinc Pietas sequitur, quæ candida tota  
Dum præit, & molli flexu moderatur habenas;  
Vsque Caledonios per-amico lumine fines  
Respicit: at comitem lentam Prudentia lente  
Increpat, atque ultro quanto via longa labore  
Corripienda, monet: sequitur Constantia diva,  
Quam fovet amplexu Superis Astræa relictis,  
Æquior hæc votis sistit revocatque sorores.

Interea accurrunt Charites, veneranda propago  
Eunonia prognata olim, par omnibus ætas,  
Par species; Aglaja, Thaliaque, lætitiæque  
Euphrosyne mater prius, at nunc tristior axem  
Prona petit, supplexque humili sic vœce profatur:

Ergone abis regum flos unice? nec tua spectas  
Gaudia ut has oras tecum fugitiva relinquat,  
Aut hæc nostra quibus permutes finibus arva?  
Gens armis opibusque potens adeunda, fatemur,  
Et quam temperie cœli, quamque ore deserto,  
Quam specie Angelica melior Natura bearit:  
At non illa tibi prima incunabula lucis,  
Non primæ usuram, primos non aeris haustus  
Contulit: has laudes terra hæc sibi vendicat una.

Et tamen hanc linquens, illam tibi deligis unam.  
Ergo suum sylvis Aquilo iunitatur honorem  
Decutere, & Dryadum nemora inter frondea scenis  
Illuvies, nec pastorum Pæana canentum  
Naiades socie, (per te pastoribus ctsi  
Vberior solito merces) pecudesque sucte  
Luxuriare prius, mute, muteque volucres,  
Æthera que liquide cantu mulcere perite  
Dum te rege suo: Zephyri non aura susurris,  
Non strepitu rivi, non flumina murmure gaudent.  
Quin etiam fama est, Nymphas sub rupe jacentes  
Non vitreo undarum notos sub marmore lusus  
Fingere, vel saturare lylia sua pense colore,  
Sed desiderio lento tabescere; & usque  
Te veniente die, te decedente vocare.  
Pastum aversati cervi, dameque fugaces  
Lucem aversate Solis, procul in dumetis  
Vitam egramque inopemque trahunt: licet immem-  
mor artis

Delia tela, tot & comites, seque abdat in antris.  
Nam neque jam cordi comites, neque tela, recessus  
Te nemorum linquente sacros, & amœna vireta.  
Quin ne ipsum luctus exsors celum. ecce repente  
Scotorum jam adversus equos Sol jungit ab oris,  
Conditus in nubem & Libye devexus in Austros,  
Sol comes inde tui accessus, comes inde recursus,  
Sic obstricta tibi est celestia cernere signa.  
Queque urbes nuper lete nova carmina regi  
Presenti cecinere tibi plausuque frementes  
Indulsere choris, epulis & ubique paratis  
Regifico luxu, sociorum assuescere mensis  
Queisque voluptati socios, queis numina testes  
Affectus (qualis tandem genitore reducto  
Distinuere diu quem trans maris equora venti  
Pertentat natorum animos, parvosque nepotes)  
Nunc vice (ut haud unquā constant sibi gaudia)  
Et tecum, ereptis Musis se solvere luctu [versa  
Heu nequent. Talis tanti est præsentia Regis.

Hactenus: & lachrymis in mæsta cadentibus  
ora,

Cetera non potuit. Subit hinc Aglaja serena  
Fronte magis niveas atque interfusa papillas  
Gratia letitiam lachrymis immiscet auariss.



Hæc autē : Hunc urbes presserunt corde dolorē,  
 Scotia quotquot habet, non has sibi conscia virtus,  
 Non fecunda virum tellus, non atria cultu  
 Splendida regali flectunt. Tu quippe Camœnis  
 (Vnde tuis fluxit numeris non publica vena),  
 Dum comitatus abis, rex maxime, pangere carmen  
 Heu meritum nequeunt, memoresque expendere  
 grates,

Quas tibi, quasque choro procerum, comitumque  
 [tuorum,

Angligenisque tuis satrapis, tua Scotia debet.  
 Luget Edinburgum hoc regni caput, hoc Taodunū  
 Celigenum donum Sterlinum, Glascula, Fanum  
 Andrææ, Aonidum columen, sophieque palestre :  
 At tam supra alias Abredonia mœsta sorores,  
 Illa tuum quam supra alias persensit amorem.  
 Quem si non jactet, jaceat jam in gloria, & omni  
 Parta tot hospitii officiis laus concidat ævo.  
 Nam Ptolemei etsi Devana Abredonia seculo  
 Dicta olim (Dea Dea velut) se mille per annos,  
 Quingentosque stetisse probarit, mille per annos  
 Quingentosq; tamen majora haud munera nacta  
 est.

Hujus enim ille alter tu conditor : utque Camillus  
 Romæ, sic nostræ renovas fundamina sedis  
 Prima, tuo summo tibi suffragante Senatu.  
 Nec satis hoc, isti sed dum preludis amori,  
 Illustres huc missi Equites sic se ore ferentes,  
 Vt qui non ullis veterum virtute secundi.  
 Scilicet his placuit bona sic concordia (nostre  
 Limina urbis), nostris adscripti ut civibus omen  
 Firment, jam leges fatorum poscere gentem,  
 Vtraque ut auspiciis gens his coalescat in unam.

Namque ut nos hilares solida inter gaudia nocstes  
 Egerimus, testes vestro hoc clamore secundo  
 Quæ frenuere viæ, *Bon-Accord*, Abredonia testis  
 Testes tot choreæ Bacchi inter pocula lætæ.

Macte animi Solomon alter : quam prodixit amorē  
 Tu lectos mittendo equites Aquilonis ad oras,  
 Tam vim judicii, & mentis regalis honores  
 Accumulando istis, quos tractus nubium in altos  
 Evehit incoctum generoso pectus honesto.  
 Hec Aglaja : preces superaddit tertia, curru  
 Iam fugiente : dies namque inclinabat Iberi  
 Gurgitis ad metas ; oculis tamen illa sequuta  
 (Dum licuit) currum, cupide faventia menti  
 Longius assueto cernebant lumina, vota hæc  
 Dum geminat, tenditque manus cum voce supinas :  
 Vos arva, atque metus mihi conscia flumina,  
 regi

Si qua secunda meo, vestros sic usque colonos  
 Sospitet alma Ceres, undasque recludere dulces  
 Sic aveant dulce, nitido ac argenteus ore  
 Fons saliat, vivus scatebrisque perennibus auctus  
 Finibus incolumem hunc Tamesinis reddite regni  
 Delicias triplicis : quibus an quid magis ab arce  
 Sol videt etherea ? gremio vel Dedala tellus  
 Concipit, Oceani refluxis qua cingitur undis ?  
 Vosque Euri cohibete animos, irasque minaces,  
 Turbida ne valeant effundere nubila vires :  
 Sibilet aura tamen levior, que regis ad aures  
 Mollius ista ferat : Regis tenet Anglia corpus  
 Quin animumq; sed usque animi hujus Scotia pars  
 Dixerat : aurige torto insonuere flagello : [fit.  
 Luminis interea frenis per aperta solutis  
 Æquora præcipitans aciem jam effugerat axis.

[Vol. ii. p. 566.]

# CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS,

BY THE AUTHOR.

---

PAGE 2, line 10, *after* Buchanness, *add* or perhaps rather

..... 6, Note, line 7, *for* this had, *read* These operations had

..... 7, line 24, *for* cannot with any degree of certainty be ascertained, *read* we find it extremely difficult to ascertain

..... 8, Note, line 7, *for* Malieul, *read* Maleuil

..... 9, Note, line 2, *for* quietes, *read* quietos

..... 9, Note—The two charters granted by William the Lion to the burgesses, in the year 1196, are both of the same date and tenor, and witnessed by the same personages as we have already noticed; but they differ a little in some of the words, and in the mode of contracting them. A copy of one of those has been annexed as a note to page 9; the other has been engraved, and fronts that page. The following is a complete copy of it, without contractions:—

WILLIELMUS Dei gratia Rex Scottorum Episcopis Abbitibus Comitibus Baronibus Justiciariis Vicecomitibus Prepositis Ministris et omnibus probis hominibus totius terre sue clericis et laicis salutem sciant presentes et futuri me in perpetuum quietos clammasse burgenses meos de Aberdon 'a tolneio de propriis catallis suis per totum Regnum meum pro bono servicio quod idem burgenses mei mihi fecerint Et ideo volo ut nullum per Regnum meum dent tolneium de propriis catallis suis et firmiter precipio ut ubicunque in Regno meo venerint perpetuo a tolneio quieti sint de propriis catallis suis Quare prohibeo firmiter nequis in Regno meo eos injuste vexare presummat in exigendo ab eis de propriis catallis eorum tolneium super meam plenariam forisfacturam. Testibus Ricardo Episcopo Moravie Comite Dunecano Justiciario Gillechristo Comite de Mar Willielmo et Waltero Capellanis meis Philippo de Valoniis Alano filio Rollandi Constabulario Willielmo de Haia Willielmo Giffard Unifrede de Berkeley Henrico Reuel Thoma Thancart Yvone de Veteri ponte Waltero filio Sibaldi Apud Aberdon xxviii die Augusti.

PAGE 9, add to Note, line 23, Walter, the son of Sybald

This *Walterus filius Sybaldi* is often mentioned, as a witness, in the charters of that period, as well as his father *Sybaldus*, who, in the 129th folio of the register of the priory of St. Andrew's, *penes* Mr. Maule, is styled *Dominus Sybaldus Miles de Meornis*. They are both also frequently named in the cartulary of the abbey of Arbroath, particularly in the foundation charter by William, the Lion, where, among other donations to that Abbey, is noticed, "Et terram illam de Munethen (hodie Mondynes) quam Philippus de Malevill et Eva Sponsa sua eis dederunt, et quam *Walterus filius Sybaldi* dedit predicto Philippo in maritagium cum prædicta Eva filia sua." From this period, the *Sibbalds of Kair* continued to be among the  
greatest

greatest landed proprietors in Mearns until about the end of the seventeenth century, and are now represented by *Stuart of Inchbreck*, directly and lineally descended of them. We have been favoured with this information by Professor John Stuart of Marischal College, who is now the only surviving descendant of this ancient family.

PAGE 17, Note, line 10th, *for* 40,000, *read* 14,000

To the last Note of page 17th, *add*, The castle seems to have been of some importance in the beginning of the reign of Alexander III. In the Chamberlain's accounts of Scotland, for the year 1264, we find that Andrew de Garuiach, sheriff of the county, was allowed in his accounts the following articles:—

Item capellano ministranti in capella castri de Abirdene de illo anno v marcas Item de illo anno unam marcam Item maġro R. cementario ad operacionem castri xx marcas de quibus respondebit

Item in carriagio decem doliorum vini de nauī usq. castrum cum windaġ x l<sup>o</sup>.

PAGE 20, line 14, *after* territories, *add* in the county of Aberdeen

..... 22, ... 7, *after* popery, *add* Such is the effect of custom, that, at the present day, the people, immediately on leaving the church after forenoon's sermon on Sunday, proceed directly to the terrace of the Castlehill, without having any particular object in view. This practice has been in observance for time immemorial

..... 29, line 13, *for* its accomplishment, *read* for payment of the stipulated sum

..... 50, line 16, *for* on the throne, *read* to the throne

..... 51, ... 27, *for* before, *read* in front of.—*Note, at the foot of the same page*—It appears from the Chamberlain's accounts for the year 1412, that the governor was allowed for his labours and expense attending this expedition against Donald, L.122 17s. 4d.; for constructing a fort at Inverness, for the utility of the kingdom against Donald, L.151; and for stones sent to Inverness, victuals, and carriage, L.32 10s. 3d.—*Vol. iii. p. 47.*

PAGE 52, line 21, *for* accomplished, *read* fulfilled

..... 79, ... 5, *for* during this æra, which, *read* during this period. These

..... 80, ... 19, *for* this form of rule, *read* this mode of conducting the election

..... 85, after line 14, *add*, The lands of Rubislaw, which, by the modern improvements and extension of the town, have become of very great value, were granted to the magistrates, council, and community, by Robert II. by a charter, dated at Kindrocht, or castle of Braemar, 20th of August, 1380. They were afterwards annexed to the borough by a charter from King James VI. dated at Falkland, 17th July, 1617, and ratified in parliament, June 28th, 1633; but the property had been feued out to a vassal, in the middle of the sixteenth century, for a trifling feu duty.

..... 87, line 3, *for* in this æra, *read* during this period

..... 91, last line of Note, *for* lemma, *read* limina

..... 98, line 1, *for* appropriated for, *read* appropriated to

.....101, ... 25, *for* In the course of this epoch, *read* In the course of this period

.....102, Note, at *Heirship moveables*.—These are the best of certain moveable goods which belonged to the ancestor at the time of his death. The heirs of prelates, barons, and trading burgesses, (excluding honorary ones) are entitled, by the act of parliament, 1474, to the succession not only of subjects properly heritable, but to that sort of moveables called *heirship*. The following list of goods, which were claimed by Alexander Fraser, eldest son of Gilbert Fraser, burgess, from Barbara Menzies, his widow,

in



in a law suit before the baillies, in June, 1553, will afford an ample specimen of the nature of *heirship moveables*, belonging to a burgess of guild of Aberdeen:—

|                                                                         |   |   |   |      |    |   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|---|------|----|---|
| To a signet of gold, value                                              | - | - | - | L.10 | 0  | 0 |
| „ a gown of English russet, <i>begarded</i> with broad boards of velvet | - | - | - | 20   | 0  | 0 |
| „ a new doublet of purple velvet, with <i>teslaittis</i>                | - | - | - | 12   | 0  | 0 |
| „ a Hogtoun coat of fine French cloth                                   | - | - | - | 6    | 13 | 4 |
| „ a cloak of new Spanish freize                                         | - | - | - | 4    | 0  | 0 |
| „ a new black bonnet                                                    | - | - | - | 1    | 0  | 0 |
| „ a pair of hose of French black, lyned with taffet                     | - | - | - | 3    | 0  | 0 |
| „ a linen shirt                                                         | - | - | - | 1    | 4  | 0 |
| „ a skin coat of basene leather                                         | - | - | - | 1    | 0  | 0 |
| „ a close standing bed of oak                                           | - | - | - | 6    | 13 | 4 |
| „ a pair of curtains of fine new satin                                  | - | - | - | 5    | 0  | 0 |
| „ a feather bed, with bolster                                           | - | - | - | 5    | 0  | 0 |
| „ a pair of blankets                                                    | - | - | - | 2    | 0  | 0 |
| „ a pair of sheets                                                      | - | - | - | 3    | 0  | 0 |
| „ a pair of pillows, sewed with silk                                    | - | - | - | 1    | 10 | 0 |
| „ a verdor of a bed of Flanders bind                                    | - | - | - | 2    | 0  | 0 |
| „ a bed matrass                                                         | - | - | - | 1    | 0  | 0 |
| „ a meat board, with long seats                                         | - | - | - | 4    | 0  | 0 |
| „ a chair of oak                                                        | - | - | - | 3    | 0  | 0 |
| „ a board cloth of dornick, with towells, and 12 servets                | - | - | - | 6    | 0  | 0 |
| „ a salt vat of tin                                                     | - | - | - | 0    | 6  | 0 |
| „ a gardinet, and bason of brass                                        | - | - | - | 4    | 0  | 0 |
| „ a laver                                                               | - | - | - | 1    | 0  | 0 |
| „ a dozen of tin trenchers                                              | - | - | - | 3    | 0  | 0 |
| „ a plat of tin, and dish of tin                                        | - | - | - | 1    | 10 | 0 |
| „ a pot and pan                                                         | - | - | - | 4    | 0  | 0 |
| „ a compter                                                             | - | - | - | 2    | 0  | 0 |
| „ a board cloth of fine Scots worsted                                   | - | - | - | 2    | 0  | 0 |
| „ a meat almory                                                         | - | - | - | 5    | 0  | 0 |
| „ a brewing caldron of 16 gallons                                       | - | - | - | 15   | 0  | 0 |
| „ a brass chandelier                                                    | - | - | - | 1    | 0  | 0 |
| „ a silver spoon                                                        | - | - | - | 1    | 6  | 8 |
| „ a quart and pint of tin                                               | - | - | - | 2    | 0  | 0 |
| „ a chest and press                                                     | - | - | - | 3    | 0  | 0 |
| „ a vessel bink                                                         | - | - | - | 1    | 0  | 0 |
| „ a spit and rost iron                                                  | - | - | - | 1    | 0  | 0 |
| „ two raxes of iron                                                     | - | - | - | 1    | 0  | 0 |
| „ a brew vat, with kymmone & ale stand & lummis                         | - | - | - | 6    | 0  | 0 |
| „ a pair of wool kemmis                                                 | - | - | - | 1    | 0  | 0 |
| „ a kemming stock                                                       | - | - | - | 0    | 10 | 0 |
| „ a pair of tongs, and cruik of iron                                    | - | - | - | 1    | 4  | 0 |
| „ a spinning wheel                                                      | - | - | - | 1    | 0  | 0 |

To

|                    |   |   |   |   |   |   |     |   |   |
|--------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----|---|---|
| To a pair of cards | - | - | - | - | - | - | L.0 | 3 | 0 |
| „ an ox            | - | - | - | - | - | - | 4   | 0 | 0 |

[*Council Register*, vol. xxi. p. 418.]

*All Scottish Money.*

PAGE 115, line 1, *after church*, add where a stone in the north wall distinguishes the place of his interment

..... 117, line 24, *for Aberdeen*, read the town

..... 127, line 12, *for convey*, read convoy

..... 151, ... 28, *dele* office

..... 152, ... 8, *for the attainment of*, read in obtaining which

..... 166, ... 1, *for dead*, read deed

..... —, ... 7, *for æra*, read period

..... 168, ... 17, *for obtain*, read procure

..... 173, Note—In 1523, John Pill was tried, and convicted by a jury, for not joining the procession on Candlemas day, with his token and sign of his craft, for abusing the baillie and burgesses of guild, by calling them *coffies*, and desiring them to take their “salt pork and herbs” in their hands. For this high offence he was sentenced to appear in the church, on Sunday, before the high altar, bare headed and bare foot, with a candle of wax in his hand, as an offering to their patron S<sup>t</sup> Nicholas, and on his knees to ask forgiveness of the provost and baillies.—[*Council Register*, vol. xi. p. 399.]

In the year 1539, the following act of council was passed, on a representation from the lords of Bon-Accord:—

*14th April, 1539.—PETITION of the LORDS of BON-ACCORD.*

Curia capitalis ballivorū burgi de Aberdene tenta super montē castri ejusd̄ decimo quarto die mensis Aprilis anno Dñi 1539<sup>o</sup> per honōles viros Thomā Mēzes p̄pōn David Andson Andreā Mēzes et Aleḡm Ruḡfurd ballivos

My lord p̄west balzes and consall of yis gud towne onto zo<sup>1</sup> m/ humely menis & schawis we Walter Hay and Thomas Scherar lords of Bon-Accord That quhar zo<sup>1</sup> m/ put us in ye said office yis instant zeir albeit we ar no<sup>1</sup> cōvenient y<sup>1</sup>for n<sup>e</sup>yless we sell God willand do ye best we may to zo<sup>1</sup> m/ honor and ye gude townes Quharfor we exhort zo<sup>1</sup> m/ y<sup>1</sup> we hef ye auld lowable use lang usit and keipit w<sup>1</sup> in yis gud towne nor in o<sup>1</sup> tyme lyk as it has bene in or predecessors tymes That is to say all ye yong able men w<sup>1</sup> in yis gud towne to cōvoy us eḃy Sunday & haly day and uy<sup>1</sup> neidfull tymes aboulzeit as zo<sup>1</sup> m/ hes devisit & agit men to meit us at ye Crabstane or kirk yard And yai yat cōpeirs no<sup>1</sup> y<sup>1</sup> we may poynd yame cōforme to ye auld use or ellis mony of yame will no<sup>1</sup> obey &c. And als at zo<sup>1</sup> m/ pleyss ratify & affirme ye saying ze p̄nyst us ye t̄y of o<sup>1</sup> chesing in office That is to say ane of ye first fremen y<sup>1</sup> be gud at o<sup>1</sup> chesing y<sup>1</sup> we heff securite in zo<sup>1</sup> buks y<sup>1</sup>of And zo<sup>1</sup> m/ ansur heiraponn maist humely we besick, &c.

The ḡlk petitionn forsaid ye p̄west balzes cōsall and cōite p̄nt for ye t̄y ratifeit approvit & affermit & ordanis ye same to be keipit & obs̄vit in all poynts y<sup>2</sup>of und ye panis cōtenit in ye same to be ouptakin & poyndit be ye forsaid lords at y<sup>2</sup> plesa<sup>2</sup> &c.

In 1542,

In 1542, Alex. Kayn's wife was convicted for the heavy *strublen* and *myspersoning* of the abbot and prior of Bon-Accord, and their company, by calling them "*common beggars and skaffers*," and saying their "*meltyd was but sma' for all their cutted out hose*." What punishment was inflicted does not appear.—[*Council Register*, vol. xvii. p. 162.]

PAGE 177, line 11, *for æra, read period*

..... 181, ... 22, *for æra, read period*

..... 184, ... 8, *for æra, read age*

..... 202, ... 16, *for that, read this*—line 18, *for this, read that*

..... 227, ... 12, *after majesty, add* After remaining in the town for upwards of a week, the king proceeded to Edinburgh, in order to enter upon his administration. Charles made another visit to Aberdeen in the end of the subsequent month of February, where he remained for some time.—*Dele* the paragraph from "office" to "his."

..... 230, ... 12, *for depressed, read oppressed*

..... 257, ... 2, *for incited, read excited*

..... 259, Note, *for* 250 pounds weight of salmon, *read* a barrel contains 42 gallons, English measure, and 400 lbs. of gross salmon

..... 263, line 11, *for mark, read remark*

..... 271, Note—In the south wall of the church yard a stone is fixed, bearing an inscription, which is now rendered almost illegible. We can, however, discover, that it had been placed there in memory of some person who had died of the plague, in the year 1647. Under the inscription is rudely sculptured on the stone a figure bearing some resemblance to a buboe, or tumor, with an issue in it. This would seem to manifest that the disease had commenced with a malignant disorder of this nature upon the body. Being highly infectious, like the modern plague of Turkey, it generally brought on debility rapidly, and proved fatal. When the plague infested London, in 1665, the symptoms were vomiting blood, with fever; purple, blue, or black spots on the body; swellings in the groin, arm pits, and behind the ears.

..... 303, line 19, *for before him, read previously*

... .. 336, ... 6, *for to form an association, read of forming themselves into an association*

..... 358, ... 9, *after resort, add of borrowing money for paying interest for*

..... 391, Note—Both ferry boats now belong to the town of Aberdeen

..... 380, line 33, *after extremity of, add King-street, near*

..... 402, ... 1, *after accomplishing, add the execution of.*





# I N D E X.

---

## A.

*Aberdeen*, the ancient Devana of the Romans, 1, 2.  
 Its etymology, 5. Charters granted to, by King William the Lion, 8, 9. Is pillaged by Esteyn, one of the kings of Norway, 9. Charter to by Alexander II. 11. Ditto by Alexander III. 12. The town is burnt by accidental fire, *ib.* Ancient constitution of the borough, 13. Castle of Aberdeen is taken by the English, 17; stormed by the citizens, and razed, 20. Grants to the borough by Robert Bruce, 23. The town is burnt by the English, 27. Charters by King David II. *ib.* Town of, is threatened to be burnt by the Earl of Angus and other Noble Lords, 130. Charter granted to the borough, by the English commissioners of the commonwealth, - - - 230  
*Aboyne*, James, Viscount of, collects a body of loyalists at Aberdeen, 211; is defeated by Montrose at the bridge of Dee, - 212  
*African Company*, magistrates hold a share in, 261  
*Alderman*, the ancient name of the chief magistrate, 13  
*Angus*, the Earl of, - 126, 131  
*Anne*, Queen, is proclaimed at Aberdeen, 235  
*Ardlair*, the lands of, granted by Bishop Dunbar to the magistrates, council, and community, for support of the bridge of Dee, 416, 467; are sold to John Leslie of Balquhain, - 418  
*Armour* of the citizens, - - 102  
*Arran*, the Earl of, Regent, visits the town, 76  
*Assessments* made on the citizens for various purposes, - - 190, 277  
*Auchinleck*, George, of Balmanno, claims the fishings on Don, - - 122

## B.

*Bannerman*, Thomas, colonel of volunteers, 336, 458  
*Baillies*, origin of the office of, 14; list of, in 13th century, - - note, *ib.*  
*Barbour*, John, archdeacon of Aberdeen, 33  
*Battle* of Barra, and at Aberdeen, 20; of Harlaw, 49; of Corrichie, 118; of Crabestone, 120, 222; of Aberdeen, 225; of Inverury, in 1745, 301  
*Bon-aecord*, origin of, 21; Abbot and Prior of, 90  
*Borough*, disfranchisement of, is attempted by the Earl of Morton, 122. Patrimonial property of, is given off in feu to the burgesses, 145; proceedings between them and administrators, regarding the *set* of, - 150, et seq.  
*Bowling and golfing*, - 256  
*Brebner*, Alexander, of Learnie, elected provost, in 1818, in consequence of a warrant from the Prince Regent in council, - 435  
*Bruce*, King Robert, his grants and charters to the borough, 23; he visits Aberdeen, 25  
 ———King David, a benefactor to the town, 27; relieved from his captivity in England, on payment of a ransom, Aberdeen being one of the boroughs bound for the stipulated sum, 29  
 ———Christian and Matilda, - 30, 31  
 ———David, &c. - 288  
*Burgesses* of guild, struggles between, and the administrators of the town, 150, 318, 357, 425

## C.

*Canal*, Aberdeenshire, - 400  
*Cant*, Mr. Andrew, visits the town, as a promoter of the covenant, 198; he is appointed one of the ministers, and his rigorous proceedings against the people, - 253

- Castle-street* is levelled and inclosed on the south side, - - - 5
- Chamberlain's Accounts* of Scotland, extracts from, 39
- Charitable* donations by benevolent individuals to the town, under the administration of the council, - - - 246
- Charles I.* approves of the conduct of the citizens in not subscribing the covenant, 198; his letters to the magistrates, 198, 200, 213; he addresses them by a letter from Oxford, 217; his interference with the political government of the borough, - - - 240
- *II.* returns to Scotland, and repairs to Aberdeen, where he resides for some time, 226; address to him by the magistrates, on his restoration, - - - 230
- Cheyne*, John, advocate, supports the burgesses in their struggles with the administrators of the town; he is elected provost, 162
- Church* music, variance among the people concerning the performance of, - 307
- session, their rigorous proceedings against the people, - - - 177, 252
- Clerk*, Town, proceedings regarding the office of, 151
- Clocks*, public, - - - 99
- Coinage* at Aberdeen, 28, 37, 87; in circulation at Aberdeen in 16th century, - 185
- Commerce*, progress of, - 32, 39, 87
- Common* indenture, and decree arbitral thereupon, 150
- Contributions* by the town to government, 39, 104, 189
- Convention* of royal boroughs' proceedings regarding the constitution of the borough, 154; their award fixing the *set*, &c. - 163
- Corporations* of artificers, original institution of, 147; commotion among them regarding their privileges, 148; their disputes settled by decree arbitral on the common indenture, 150; their powers in the council defined by award of the convention of boroughs, 163; their variances with the burgesses with regard to the application to the king for a warrant for a new election, - - - 425
- Correction-house*, is established, - 257
- Corrichie*, (*vide* battle)
- Council*, Town, and office-bearers, modes of elections of, 79, 81; charter to, from King James VI. for continuing the members during life, 153; election of, for 1818, - 435
- Covenant*, origin of, - 197
- Covenanters*, leaders of, repair to Aberdeen, and require the citizens to subscribe the covenant, which they refused, 198. They afterwards accede to it, - - - 207
- Crabestone*, (*vide* battle)
- Craig*, John, appointed minister of Aberdeen, 115
- Cromwell*, Oliver, his scheme of an union of Scotland and England into one commonwealth, agreed to by Aberdeen, - 229
- Cross* of Aberdeen - - - 407
- Crive* dyke demolished by the Earl of Mar and his vassals, - - - 231
- Cruives*, the lands of, acquired by the town from Bannerman of Elsick, and annexed to the borough, - - - 85
- Cumberland*, H. R. II. the Duke of, arrives with the royal army at Aberdeen, 302; entertains the citizens with a splendid ball, 303; appoints twelve citizens governors of the town, *ib.*
- Customs* and manners of the citizens in early ages, 88, 182, 255
- D.
- Dauney*, Alexander, colonel of volunteers, note, 336
- Davidson*, Sir Robert, provost, killed at the battle of Harlaw, and his body entombed in St. Nicholas' church, - - - 51
- Debt*, public, due to the town at the termination of the civil war, 247. Debt of the treasury in 1715, 249; in 1817, and proceedings concerning, - - - 347, et seq.
- Dec*, river, - - - 2
- bridge, projected by Bishop Elphinston, and completed by Bishop Dunbar, 416; rebuilt in 1718, 419; funds belonging to, (*vide* Ardlair) 420
- Denburn*, ancient course of, - 4
- Devana*, the ancient Aberdeen, supposed to have been an itinerary station of the Romans, note p. 3.



|                                                |          |
|------------------------------------------------|----------|
| <i>Distillery</i> and brewery at Gilcomston,   | 388      |
| ——— at bridge of Don,                          | 423      |
| <i>Don</i> , river,                            | 5, 420   |
| ——— bridge, erected by King Robert Bruce,      | 421 ;    |
| donation for the support of, by Sir Alex. Hay, |          |
| ib. ; funds belonging to,                      | 423      |
| <i>Dress</i> of the citizens,                  | 101, 183 |

## E.

|                                                                          |        |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| <i>Edward I.</i> occupies Aberdeen with his army in July 1296, and 1303, | 17, 18 |
| ——— <i>II.</i> sends succours for retaking the castle of Aberdeen,       | 22     |

*Election* of town council and office-bearers in ancient times, 79 ; for the year 1696, annulled by the privy council, 246 ; for the year 1716, warrant for, granted by the king in council to the former magistrates, 288 ; ditto in 1746, 304

——— of magistrates and council for 1817, annulled by the second division of the court of session, 371 ; warrant granted for new election by the king and council to the former magistrates, 429 ; new election completed, 435  
*English* army under General Monk occupy the town, and remain in it for several years, 228.  
 A fine of L.12,000, Scottish money, imposed upon the citizens, but remitted by order of General Monk, ib.

## F.

|                                                                                                |           |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| <i>Feasting</i> , extravagant, of the citizens, restrained by the magistrates,                 | 176       |
| <i>Fiars</i> of the county, from 1649 to 1700,                                                 | 282 ;     |
| ditto, from 1705 to 1817,                                                                      | 462       |
| <i>Finlason</i> , William, colonel of volunteers,                                              | note, 336 |
| <i>Fire</i> , accidental, in the Gallowgate, 290 ; in the Broadgate,                           | 294       |
| <i>Fishings</i> , salmon and freedom lands, are given off in feu by the community,             | 145       |
| ——— of Don, grant of, to Auchinleck of Balmanno, is revoked by King James                      | 123       |
| <i>Flodden</i> , battle of,                                                                    | 64        |
| <i>Forbes</i> , Lord, and other nobles, &c. repair to Aberdeen on the death of King James III. |           |

and proceedings of the citizens on that occasion, 59  
*Forbes*, Lord, his contest with the community, 66  
*Forbes*, John, of Pitsligo, and confederates, invade the town, and are repulsed by the citizens, 67 ; the provost and twenty-three of these tried before the justiciary court on that account, and acquitted, 68

|                                                                              |     |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| <i>Fraser</i> , John, defeats the English at Aberdeen,                       | 20  |
| <i>Fraser</i> , Lord, takes possession of Aberdeen with a body of loyalists, | 209 |
| <i>Funerals</i> expensive,                                                   | 182 |

## G.

|                                                                                                                       |          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| <i>George III.</i> his coronation celebrated in the town,                                                             | 308      |
| <i>Gilcomston</i> , village of, and improvements,                                                                     | 387      |
| <i>Glenlivet</i> , battle of,                                                                                         | 129      |
| <i>Gordon</i> , Sir John, beheaded at Aberdeen,                                                                       | 119      |
| ——— the Duke of, arbiter in a political question between the administrators of the borough                            | 244      |
| <i>Gonrie's</i> conspiracy, a poem on, is composed, by the rector of the grammar school, by order of the magistrates, | 134      |
| <i>Gray</i> , William and Gilbert, provosts, buried with military honours,                                            | 273      |
| <i>Gregory</i> , David and James,                                                                                     | 269, 270 |
| <i>Gypsies</i> , under George and John Faw, infest the town, but are expelled,                                        | 72       |

## H.

|                                                                                             |                                                                            |     |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| <i>Harbour</i> improvements, variance among the citizens regarding the plan of,             | 339 ; improvements of, during different periods,                           | 390 |
| <i>Harlaw</i> , battle of,                                                                  |                                                                            | 51  |
| <i>Hay</i> , Sir Alexander, his donation for the support of the bridge of Don,              |                                                                            | 421 |
| <i>Heriot</i> , Adam, first protestant minister,                                            |                                                                            | 114 |
| <i>Huntly</i> , the Earl of, bond of man-rent granted to, by the magistrates and community, | 55 ; requires the citizens to join him at the Cabrach, which they decline, | 57  |
| ——— appointed provost of Aberdeen,                                                          |                                                                            | 74  |
| ——— defeated at Corrichie, and proceedings against his lordship's family,                   |                                                                            | 116 |

*Huntly*, donations to, by the magistrates and council, - - - 132  
 — the Marquis of, is advanced to the dignity by King James VI. 132; his lordship's reception by the citizens, - - - *ibid.*  
 — — — — —, is seized by the Earl of Montrose, and carried prisoner to Edinburgh, 208; he makes preparations for commencing hostilities against the covenanters, 219; carries off the provost and two baillies prisoners, *ibid.*; invades the town, and imposes severe conditions on the inhabitants, *ibid.*; evacuates it, 220; defeats the covenanters under Colonel Montgomery, and allows Aberdeen to be plundered by his army, 225; falls a victim to the severity of the covenanters, - - - *ibid.*  
 — — — — — abandons the cause of the rebels in the year 1715, - - - 287

## I.

*Improvements* of the town, 379; ditto of the county, - - - 467  
*Innes*, John, is fined, disfranchised, and imprisoned, for opposing assessments, and for offering indignity to the magistrates, - - - 251  
*Irvine*, Sir Alexander, of Drum, is killed at the battle of Harlaw, - - - 51  
 — — — — — his son, is appointed by the citizens governor of Aberdeen, - - - 53

## J.

*James I.* a bond for the ransom of, is granted to England, by Aberdeen, and three other royal boroughs, - - - 52  
 — *II.* visits the town, 54; his queen presented with 100 merks by the community, - - - *ibid.*  
 — *III.* a bond granted to, by the magistrates, for the delivery of 10 lasts of salmon, 59; Lord Forbes and others apply to the citizens with regard to punishing the traitors who had been the cause of his death, - - - *ibid.*  
 — *IV.* visits the town, 61; his marriage with the Princess Margaret of England, attended by the provost and other citizens, 63; the queen visits the town, *ibid.*; the king killed at the battle of Flodden, - - - 64

*James V.* visits the town, and grants a remission to the community, 65; addresses a letter to the magistrates, approving of their opposing landed men or barons, - - - 70  
 — *VI.* visits the town, 125, 128; married to Anne of Denmark, 126; part of his queen's dowry lent to the town, 127; a ship fitted out by Aberdeen, for conveying them home, *ibid.*; his decree arbitral on reference by the burgesses and administrators of the town, 161; he is called to the throne of England, 134; returns to Scotland, 136; his servants and attendants repair to Aberdeen, *ibid.*; a poem on his return to Scotland, by David Wedderburn, rector of the grammar school, - - - 471  
 — *VII.* proclaimed at Aberdeen, 232; his interference with the political government of the borough, - - - 245  
*Jameson*, George, painter, - - - 267

## K.

*Kidnapping*, traffic of, - - - 294  
*Kinghorn*, the Earl of, appointed governor of Aberdeen, by the Earl of Montrose, 205  
*King-street* made out, - - - 380

## L.

*Language* of Aberdeen in the 14th century, 35  
*Leper-house*, grant of fuel to, by charter from King James VI. - - - 166  
*Leprosy* among the inhabitants, - - - *ibid.*  
*Lennox*, the Duke of, visits the town, as lord lieutenant of the north, - - - 130  
*Levant*, galley, of Amsterdam, wrecked on the sands of Belhelvie, - - - 261  
*Leys*, Thomas, provost of Aberdeen, introduces in a head court overtures regarding new streets, 348; Colonel of volunteers, - - - 460  
*London*, first charter to, by William the Conqueror, - - - 7  
*Lordship*, purchasing, origin of, and municipal law against, - - - 86

## M.

*Manners* and customs of the citizens, 88, 182, 255  
*Manufactures*, indications of, 184; progress of, 257, 260

- Mar*, the Earl of, and his vassals, demolish the Cruive dyke, 231 ; heads the rebellion in 1715, 283
- Marches* of the town, - 381
- Marischal*, the Earl, governor of Aberdeen, collects a body of men to oppose the loyalists, 208
- Marriages*, births, and burials, tables of, 188, 279
- Marshal*, John, attempts to propagate the doctrines of reformation of religion, but is restrained by the magistrates, - 110
- Mary*, Queen, dowager, visits the town, 77
- Mary*, Queen, arrives in the town, and is presented by the magistrates with 2000 merks, 115
- Menzies*, Alexander, provost, and other citizens, attend the solemnization of the marriage of King James IV. - 63
- Andrew, provost, one of the judges of the supreme civil court at Aberdeen, 55
- David, one of the hostages for the ransom of King James I. - 52
- Gilbert, is nominated principal town clerk, - 151
- Gilbert, provost, his four sons, and other citizens, are tried before the high court of justice, at Linlithgow, for assaulting and wounding Forbes, younger of Brux; and acquitted, - note, 69
- Gilbert, of Pitfoddels, is removed from the town council, in 1638, by reason of his being a baron, and representative in parliament for the county, - 242
- Patrick, baillie, is delegated by the citizens to repair to Edinburgh, to explain to the Regent Morton their interference in the contests betwixt the Gordons and Forbesses, 120
- Paul, of Kinmundy, provost, attends the coronation of King Charles I. and is knighted 138
- Thomas, provost, comptroller to the queen, - 77
- is delegated, along with David Mar, baillie, to repair to Edinburgh, to treat and conclude regarding Queen Mary's marriage with the Dauphin of France, 139
- Menzies*, Thomas, of Durn is nominated principal town clerk by the council, and the appointment confirmed by the community, 151
- is appointed commissioner from the town council to the convention of boroughs, in the political struggles with the burgesses, 156
- repairs to the court of England, and presents a valuable pearl to King James VI. and is knighted, - 137
- Middleburgh*, Staple of, Scottish merchants established at, - 33
- Mills*, Town's public, given off in feu, 151 ; redeemed from the vassal, in consideration of 5000 merks paid by the town, 166 ; history of, 409
- Minstrels*, Town's public, - 98
- Mint* established at Aberdeen, - 10, 28
- Miracle* plays or mysteries, - 89
- Miscellaneous* occurrences, - 78, 139, 237
- Monasteries* of the friars demolished by the reformers, - 113
- Monro*, General, his army oppresses the town, and pillages the county, - 216
- Montrose*, the Earl of, takes possession of the town with the army of the covenanters, 205 ; marches to Inverury, *ibid.* ; breaks up his encampment there, and returns to Aberdeen, 206 ; imposes a contribution of 100,000 merks on the citizens, 207 ; sends four of the citizens as commissioners to the tables at Edinburgh, *ibid.* ; a fine of 40,000 merks imposed upon them, *ibid.* ; he marches to the south, with the Marquis of Huntly as a prisoner, 208 ; returns to Aberdeen, encamps in the Links, and imposes a contribution of 10,000 merks on the citizens, 210 ; marches northward, returns and defeats the army of the Viscount of Aboyne at the bridge of Dee, 212 ; imposes a contribution of 7000 merks on the town, - 213
- the Marquis of, advanced to the dignity by King Charles I. ; marches towards Aberdeen, 221 ; defeats the army of the covenanters under Lord Burleigh, sacks the town, and massacres many of the inhabitants, 222 ; marches from the town, 223 ; takes and plunders Dundee, *ibid.* ; defeated by



- General Leslie, and afterwards taken by the covenanters and beheaded, one of his quarters being sent to Aberdeen, - 224
- Montrose*, borough of, warrant granted by the king in council for a poll election, 367
- Mortifications* for charitable purposes, under the administration of the town council, 246
- Municipal* laws established, 31, 32, 183, 273
- N.
- Nicholas*, Saint of the borough, his anniversary day celebrated by the citizens, - 91
- P.
- Pagants* and plays by the artificers, - 94
- Parliament* of Great Britain, Provost John Gordon is elected commissioner to, by the Aberdeen district of boroughs, - 236
- of Scotland, Aberdeen sends commissioners to, - 29, 84
- Patrimony* of the borough, ancient rental of, 106
- is given off in feu to the burgesses, - 144
- Pearl* presented to King James VI. by Thomas Menzies, provost, - 137
- Pinky*, battle of, 20 citizens killed at, - 75
- Plague* infests the town, 99; carries off 1600 of the inhabitants in the year 1647, - 270
- Plays*, religious and secular, - 90
- Politics* of the borough in the year 1588, 153; in the year 1752, 306; in 1783, 317; and in 1817, - 357
- Poll* election of royal boroughs, warrants granted for, by the king in council, - 367, 431
- Population* of the town during various periods, 36, 103, 186, 274, 382
- Pork*, trade of, - 259
- Ports*, Gallowgate, Justice, Futtie, Trinity, Netherkirkgate, and Upperkirkgate, 377
- Pox*, Small, introduction of, in the town, 168
- Printing*, origin and commencement of, in the town, 174; progress of, and printers of Aberdeen, - 263
- Privateers* fitted out from Aberdeen during the American war, - 310
- Post-office*, origin of, and establishment, 262
- Provisions*, price of, at different periods, 106, 280
- Punishments* inflicted, 180, 181. Vide miscellaneous occurrences.
- Q.
- Quakers*, origin of, in Aberdeen, 254; oppressed by the magistrates, - 255
- Quarters* into which the town is divided, 381
- R.
- Raban*, Edward, first printer established in Aberdeen, - 174
- Rebellion* in 1715, 283; ditto in 1745, and proceedings in the town, - 296
- Record Office*, - 409
- Reform* in the political affairs of the borough. Vide politics of the borough.
- Reformation* of religion, and proceedings in the town at the introduction of, - 109
- Religious* ceremonies in ancient times, - 97
- Rental* of the ancient patrimony of the town, 106
- Riot*, military, - 305, 337
- Rioting* and meal-mobbing, - 257, 309
- Roads*, turnpike, centering at Aberdeen, 389; the extent of the lines, and executing them, 469
- Robert II.* his charter of the lands of Rubislaw to the borough, - 478
- Robin Hood* and Little John, - 93
- Rubislaw*, the lands of, annexed to the borough, 478
- S.
- Saint Andrew's* college, David Bruce and six other students belonging to, driven ashore in an open boat near the Cove, and cared for by the magistrates, - 288
- Salmon*, ancient staple commodity, - 15
- Salmon* fishings of Dee and Don granted in property by King Robert Bruce to the community, 23; given off in feu to the burgesses, 144
- Salt* work at Nig, - 424
- Scarcity* and dearth in the end of the 17th century, 272; in the year 1740, 290; in 1767, 309; in 1782, 311; in 1799, - 336
- Seton* of Meldrum, his contest with the citizens, 64
- Shipping* of the port, - 261
- Shipwrecks*, - 342, 344

- Ships of war fitted out by Aberdeen*, 71 ; one fitted out to convoy the king and queen from Denmark, - - - 127
- Spaw*, Well of, - - - 388
- Stockel*, forest of, 3 ; granted in property to the community by Robert Bruce, - 23
- Stocking manufacture*, introduction of, in Aberdeen, - - - 258
- Streets*, new, proceedings in head courts and town council, regarding, 347 ; Appendix, 437
- Stuart of Inchbreck* - 478
- Suburbs and environs of Aberdeen*, - 385
- T.
- Taixali*, original people of Aberdeenshire, 2
- Theatrical amusements introduced in Aberdeen*, by Lawrence Fletcher and his company, 173
- Tower*, Alexander, colonel of volunteers, note, p. 336 ; and Appendix, - 460
- Town-house and prison*, - 403
- Treasury*, embarrassment of the affairs of, 347
- Turnpike roads*, - - - 389
- U.
- Union-street made out*, - 379
- V.
- Veneral disease*, origin of, in the town, 100
- Vespasiana*, Roman province of, - 3
- Virginia-street*, formerly the track of Trinity burn, 4
- Volunteer corps raised in Aberdeen in 1745*, 303 ; in 1756, 308 ; in 1778, 310 ; in 1794, 334.
- Vide Appendix*, - - - 459
- W.
- Wallace*, Sir William, attacks the castle of Aberdeen, 18 ; he is taken and betrayed to the English, beheaded at London, and one of his limbs sent to the town, - 19
- War*, civil, commencement of, at Aberdeen, 203 ; new war breaks out, 217 ; company of foot sent by the town to the army in England, 218
- War with France occasions considerable losses of ships belonging to the town*, - 308
- Weaponshaw of the citizens*, - 101
- Wedderburn*, David, rector of the grammar school, by order of the magistrates composes a poem on the return of King James VI. to Scotland, 91, 136, 471
- Wells and streets*, &c. commissioners of, 411
- William the Lion*, his charters to the citizens, 8, 9 ; his residence in the town, 10 ; he erects a palace in the east end of the Green, which he bestows on the monks of the Holy Trinity, *ibid.* ; establishes an exchequer in the south end of the Castlegate, - - - *ibid.*
- William and Mary*, address to, on their ascending the throne of Britain, - 234

---

*The Charter to front page 9.*

---



---

ABERDEEN :

Printed by D. CHALMERS & Co.  
Adelphi Court.







UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA LIBRARY  
Los Angeles  
This book is DUE on the last date stamped below.

Form L9-100m-9,'52 (A3105) 444

\*DA Kennedy -  
990 Annals of Aber-  
A2K33 dean  
v.1

\*DA  
990  
A2K33  
v.1



D 000 452 711 5



